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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 277

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 22, 2011

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OPINION METER

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INSIDE



Biz as Usual

It's business as usual in the Philippines despite the arrest of former President Gloria Arroyo.

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AMA Awards

Taylor Swift was crowned artist of the year at the American Music Awards for a second time.

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Mount Carmel wins Asia-Pacific mock trial tilt. PAGE 6

No extension of Nov. 27 deadline

» **Occupy USCIS still hopes DHS will grant parole for all legal aliens**
» **Individual nonresidents make last-minute parole requests**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER



The Nov. 27 deadline for filing a Commonwealth-only worker petition remains as Congress didn't initiate any move to extend the deadline before going into recess, and won't be back in session until Nov. 29.

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RELATED NEWS

- Only 1,154 alien workers so far petitioned for CW status. **PAGE 3**
- 'Reliefs are available but they are complex' **PAGE 8**

A nonresident stands in front of the Occupy USCIS tent near U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services office in Garapan yesterday afternoon. Occupy USCIS requests a grant of parole for all legal aliens in the CNMI until U.S. Congress initiates action to grant improved immigration status to long-term nonresidents here.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

CUC to seek electric base rate increase

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. will file an emergency petition to increase its electric base charge before Dec. 8 to offset the higher employer contribution rate it will pay the NMI Retirement Fund this fiscal year.

Details of the emergency petition will be finalized with CUC's consultant, economists.com, and the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission's

See **CUC** on **Page 4**

DOJ: Injunction vs CW rule will result in even greater uncertainty

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Issuing an injunction to prevent the Department of Homeland Security from enforcing the CNMI-only Transitional

Worker final rule on Nov. 28 would inject even greater uncertainty into the status of guest workers and the state of the CNMI economy, according to the Department of Justice.

In an opposition filed yesterday with

the U.S. District Court for the NMI, Theodore W. Atkinson, senior litigation counsel of the Department of Justice, said if the court were to stop the CW final rule's implementation, that would still not prevent the fact that those lawfully present in the CNMI on the basis of an umbrella permit will fall out of legal status by Nov. 27, 2011.

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FOR ALIEN WORKERS WITH PENDING CW PETITIONS

Advance parole still needed to go on vacation

» **2 more USCIS sessions on Form I-129CW**

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Nonresident workers whose Commonwealth-only worker petitions are still

pending need not miss their Christmas vacations in December, provided they apply for and obtain advance parole from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

An advance parole costs \$360.

USCIS district director David Gulick briefly talked about the advance parole requirement for vacationing nonresidents with pending CW petitions during

See **PAROLE** on **Page 4**



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Local

‘Cut \$2M spending on off-island hires’ perks’

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

If Rep. Ralph Demapan (Cov-Saipan) would have his way, he would reduce the government's estimated annual spending of \$2 million in housing, expatriation, and repatriation benefits for most off-island hires by limiting the applicability of these perks.

Among other things, he is proposing that housing allowance benefits for off-island hires and those hired within the CNMI and transferred to a post outside the CNMI shall not exceed five years.

Demapan said the govern-

ment's present financial circumstances "can no longer sustain the benefit package" being offered to off-island hires and employees hired within the CNMI and transferred to a post outside the Commonwealth.

From Oct. 1, 2010, to Aug. 24, 2011, the government spent some \$1.76 million in housing, expatriation, and repatriation benefits alone, Demapan said.

"In essence, the general fund expends approximately \$2 million annually for these benefits," he said.

Demapan concedes, however, that the government needs to recruit qualified professionals

for certain jobs and the need to maintain some benefits.

If Demapan's House Bill 17-239 becomes law, a repatriation ticket will only be given upon the employee's full separation from government, and employees shall not receive cash in lieu of repatriation tickets.

Demapan also proposes that housing allowance for off-island hires and employees hired within the CNMI and transferred to a post outside the CNMI will be given to employees upon their separation from his/her initial hiring and transfer to a new place of employment within the CNMI government.

The Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. is also considering scrapping the housing perks currently being provided to hospital workers who were hired from off-island because of the health organization's shaky financial condition, but there is no final decision on this matter yet.

Public health provides \$800 monthly housing allowance to employees who were hired from outside the CNMI with dependents, while \$600 is provided each month for single employees. Over 200 personnel presently get this allowance, most of them nurses.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

**Promotions Starts for
2012 Saipan Marathon**



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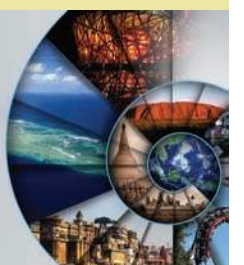
On Oct. 23, the Marianas Visitors Authority participated in the **Karuizawa Resort Marathon** to promote the March 2012 Saipan Marathon to runners from Japan. In cooperation with Karuizawa Resort Marathon organizer **Sankei Sports Shimbun**, the MVA provided a raffle prize of free entry into the Saipan Marathon for 2 people. In exchange, the MVA was provided a booth where they distributed fliers for the March 3, 2012, marathon in Saipan.

In a related tie-in, sister marathon **Kawaguchi Lake Marathon** reaffirmed its ties with the Saipan Marathon. Both the MVA and **Nikkan Sports** agreed to continue to cooperate to promote each other's marathon. Nikkan Sports will provide newspaper article space to announce and report on the 7th Saipan Marathon, with a link to the official Kawaguchi Lake Sports Marathon site. In exchange, the MVA will host two runners and one journalist in Saipan.

In order to attract visiting athletes, the MVA organizes annual signature events such as the Saipan Marathon, the **Tinian Turquoise Blue triathlon**, **Rota Blue triathlon**, **Marianas Coffee Trail Run**, and **Saipan International Open Water Flipper Tournament**.



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Mayors vow cooperation with healthcare corp.

The municipalities of Rota and Tinian have expressed their intention to collaborate with the new Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. to help their respective health centers.

Rota Mayor Melchor Mendiola said he "respects" the transitional period that the new officers are faced with. He described the "hardship" of this period as even a "greater challenge" than the corporation's financial standing.

"They're little by little meeting the requirements, although it's a great challenge," added Mendiola.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz, for his part, said that he has already met with Healthcare Corp. board chair Joaquin Torres and chief executive officer Juan N. Babauta "and we agreed to put together a partnership."

"The mayor's office will continue to assist them in infrastructure development. At present time, I'm still spending tons of money not only to expand but also to renovate the Tinian Health Center to make it more modern," he said.

Mendiola and Dela Cruz were both on island last week for the 18th General Assembly of the Association of Mariana Islands Mayors, Vice Mayors, & Elected Municipal Council Members and the 1st CNMI Specialty Crop Conference. (Clarissa V. David)

Only 1,154 alien workers so far petitioned for CW status

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

As of Thursday, Nov. 17, only 1,154 of an estimated 13,399 foreign workers in the CNMI who are "potentially eligible" for Commonwealth-only worker status have been petitioned

NMHC: Block grant only for Koblerville school project

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. board and staff plan to meet with Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and their counterparts at the Public School System to "clear the air" regarding the proposed junior high school project in Koblerville.

NMHC board members raised concerns during yesterday's board meeting that PSS officials might have gotten the impression that the CNMI's housing agency will provide the funds for the new junior high school through the Community Development Block Grant program.

Board chair Marcie Tomokane emphasized that the "original plan" only involved the purchase of land in the first year and the construction of two school buildings after.

NMHC bought in July a private lot in Koblerville where the proposed school will be built and where some 600 students from Hopwood Jr. High School

by employers.

Corinna A. Luna, chief of the Business and Employment Services Branch, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, disclosed in a declaration filed in the U.S. District Court for the CNMI that 616 Form I-129CW petitions have been received by

will be transferred.

But planner and grant writer Jeannie Mafnas reported to the board that her email communication with Rachel Fusco of PSS CIP revealed plans to construct 10 buildings: four classroom buildings with 27 classrooms, a cafeteria, a library, a vocational building, a horticulture building, a music building, and a water storage tank.

Mafnas had asked PSS for an estimated project cost, which it previously projected at about \$8 million, "but we still have yet to hear from them."

She said their Nov. 10 meeting with PSS Commissioner Rita Sablan was for the most part about funding the construction of sidewalks in Mihaville and not the new junior high school.

"We basically explained to her...that our funds are actually committed for her school," said corporate director Joshua Sasamoto. "We made it very, very absolutely clear that it's just not possible" to fund their

USCIS from 172 employers in the CNMI.

Luna said the petitions were filed on behalf of 1,154 CW-1 beneficiaries.

The U.S. Department of Justice attached Luna's declaration in its opposition to a motion for a preliminary injunction filed by

project using CDBG funding.

Tomokane noted that NMHC should not repeat their situation in the past when they had "to scramble at the last minute" to spend the grant money and not jeopardize its relationship with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"We've done what's necessary to make sure that doesn't happen. There's no danger of that happening this program year, which just started last month," assured Sasamoto.

Board member Diego Songao pointed out that the board should come up with a position that "it will only authorize up to what was approved and we cannot fund more than that because we're going to hamper the other community projects in the other islands."

"We already bought the land and we're mandated to do something. Right now, that something is the school. If that should not happen, we will come back to the board and come up with an alternate idea," said Sasamoto.

a group of individuals who are asking the federal court to stop federal officials from implementing the CNMI-only Transitional Worker final rule.

Because of a tiny fraction of the estimated 13,399 foreign workers who are "potentially eligible" for CW status, USCIS has been beef-

ing up its session for employers on how to file Form I-129CW.

As the Nov. 27 deadline to file Form I-129CW draws near, foreign workers who are still jobless are reportedly falling prey to "sponsorship" jobs offered by some manpower or individuals for payments of up to \$1,000.

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Fitial in Guam for PIDB meet

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial left for Guam on Sunday night to attend yesterday's

Pacific Islands Development Bank board of governors' meeting.

PAROLE

From Page 1

yesterday's session for employers on the filing of Form I-129CW.

Unlike last week wherein some 100 employer representatives showed up, only more than 40 attended yesterday's USCIS session and Gulick said the fewer number is a "good sign" that employers got their questions answered last week.

Another USCIS session for employers will be held at 2pm today at

the American Memorial Park indoor auditorium in Garapan.

The last session will be held tomorrow at 10am at the same place.

During the question-and-answer, Gulick said nonresidents with pending CW applications could re-enter the CNMI using advance parole.

He, however, cautioned that if the CW petition is granted during the time when the nonresident is still off-island, the nonresident needs to obtain a CW visa from a U.S. embassy or consulate to be able to come back to the CNMI.

PIDB is a regional development financial institution based in Guam. Its members include the CNMI, Guam, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, Pohnpei, and Kosrae.

This means the employer in the CNMI that receives the CW petition needs to send the original documents to the employee, so that the employee can present this to the U.S. embassy or consulate when he applies for a CW visa.

Gulick said he hopes the U.S. State Department will be ready to issue CW visas by the time CW applications are approved.

In responding to questions about CW visa denial, Gulick said there's always a chance for denial and that there are no guarantees in immigration.

Press secretary Angel Demapan said yesterday that the governor will be back today.

The governor, who is expected to be off-island again next week, has made

several off-island trips this year, including one in October to the Philippines for "urgent family matter" and the one in September in China for over a week. **(Haidee V. Eugenio)**

DOJ

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The only result an injunction would have would be to suspend the very regulations that currently benefit the more than 1,150 foreign worker with pending CW petitions, he added.

"Giving plaintiffs the injunction they want would mean the exploitation plaintiffs decry would be given another six months to thrive," he said.

Atkinson's filing is intended to oppose the motion for preliminary injunction filed by Gerardo G. De Guzman and six others who are suing federal officials to stop them from enforcing the CNMI-only Transitional Worker final rule on Nov. 28.

Atkinson is counsel for defendants

DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services District Director David Gulick, U.S. Labor Secretary Hilda L. Solis, and U.S. Department of Labor District Director Terrence Trotter.

An injunction, Atkinson said, would deprive DHS of the ability to implement and enforce the transition to federalization in any meaningful way, "thus eviscerating the intent of Congress in passing the Consolidated Natural Resources Act (the federalization law) and establishing an orderly transition while minimizing, to the greatest extent practicable, negative economic and fiscal impacts of the phasing-out of the CNMI-guest worker program."

Atkinson said the plaintiffs are not likely to succeed on any of their Administrative Procedure Act or constitu-

tional claims.

"They have failed to provide any evidence that they will suffer irreparable harm, or even that any harm they would suffer would stem from the CW final rule itself, rather than from the expiration of umbrella permits under the CNRA," he said.

Atkinson said the timing of the CW final rule complies with APA requirements, and the plaintiffs' claims of procedural defects are without merit.

He said the CW final rule also comports with Congress' intent to apply federal immigration law while minimizing negative economic impacts during the transition.

At the heart of plaintiffs' grievances about federalization, Atkinson said, is the loss of immigration status.

"But the loss of immigration status

is a result of the CNRA—which is not challenged in this action—and not an effect of the CW final rule, which offers foreign workers an avenue to an immigration status," he said.

The federal court, Atkinson pointed out, cannot confer status on foreign workers once the "grandfather" period expires on Nov. 27, 2011.

"Enjoining the CW final rule, partially or in its entirety, would do nothing to address plaintiffs' complaints. But enjoining the CW final rule could deprive foreign workers of an avenue to immigration status," he said.

Atkinson said plaintiffs' misguided effort would, tragically, have the exact opposite effect they intend by potentially causing more foreign workers to fall out of immigration status.

The plaintiffs' lawyer, Stephen C. Woodruff, earlier said that without a preliminary injunction, thousands of alien workers and their families could

leave the CNMI or be forced into removal proceedings and businesses will be disrupted by the loss of customers and access to an adequate workforce.

Woodruff said the quality of life for the CNMI as a whole could deteriorate substantially due to the loss of part-time laborers on which households and businesses depend, declining government revenues, and loss of the benefits of a free labor market.

Woodruff asked the court to bar DHS for 180 days from treating any alien lawfully present in the CNMI on Nov. 27, 2009, as lacking "admitted or paroled" status, removable or otherwise unlawfully present in the U.S.

He also asked the court to bar DHS for 180 days from treating any alien as not being authorized for employment and from enforcing the Nov. 28, 2011, cut-off for CW petitions.

Woodruff said the CW final rule is both substantially and procedurally defective.

DEADLINE

From Page 1

Nonresidents taking part in "Occupy USCIS" said yesterday there are still a few days left for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to decide on their request for a grant of parole for all legal aliens in the CNMI, even as individual jobless nonresidents continue to make last-minute filings of requests for parole-in-place with U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan said yesterday there was no "legislative fix" to extend the deadline before Congress went into recess.

Sablan also requested DHS Secretary Janet Napolitano for "administrative remedy" by granting parole to individuals covered by his H.R. 1466 and who would otherwise have to leave the CNMI after Nov. 27.

"There's no answer from DHS yet," he said yesterday. "It's a difficult situation."

HR 1466, which also didn't pass the U.S. House of Representatives before going into recess, seeks a CNMI-only resident status for four groups of aliens, including parents of U.S. citizen children.

Sablan said parole would be an interim status until his HR 1466 can win passage in the House and Senate and be enacted into law by the president.

USCIS district director David Gulick, when asked about the same issue, also said the deadline remains.

While there is no longer a chance of a legislative action to extend the deadline, United Workers Movement-NMI president Rabby Syed said there's still "administrative remedy" available.

"DHS can still grant parole for all legal aliens on or before Nov. 28," said Syed, as he joined long-term nonresidents at a gathering yesterday to cele-

brate foreign workers' contributions to the CNMI, at the Occupy USCIS tent near the USCIS office in Garapan yesterday afternoon.

The final rule says CW petitions must be filed on or before Nov. 27. But because that date is a Sunday on Saipan and still Nov. 26 in the mainland, the deadline is oftentimes believed to be Nov. 28.

After Nov. 27, anyone who does not have some federal immigration status issued by the U.S. government could go "out of status."

And with only a few days left before Nov. 28, many unemployed nonresidents are still making last-minute requests for parole with USCIS.

Ruben Creencia, 53, is among those racing against time to file a request for parole with USCIS.

Unlike others who do not have employers, Creencia said he currently has an employer who has yet to file a CW petition on his behalf. He said he brought up the issue with his employer in October and early this month but that petition has yet to be sent, he said. Creencia said he has been working for the same employer since 1989.

"It's now near Nov. 27. I am afraid I will lose my status so I am requesting parole. I already gave my employer the \$85 for biometrics," he said yesterday. He also has a 17-year-old daughter, a U.S. citizen, and this makes him also eligible to benefit from HR 1466 so he does not want to risk losing status after Nov. 27.

Bernard de Guzman, who lost his job on Oct. 6 as a gas attendant, said he mailed his parole request with USCIS only yesterday morning.

"I hope they will grant me parole by Nov. 27 or 28. I would still like to continue looking for a job here; I just need more time. I just lost my job," said the worker, who has three children in the Philippines. He said his eldest child

wasn't able to enroll in second year college because he couldn't afford it at this time when he is jobless. His two other children are in high school.

De Guzman added that a previous employer still owes him \$6,000 to \$7,000 in back wages for hours worked from 2008 to 2010. "I have a pending labor case," he said.

Other unemployed nonresidents who requested parole have been granted parole, mostly up to Jan. 31, 2012. A grant of parole is discretionary, on a case-by-case basis, and is up to USCIS.

But others are still waiting for USCIS' decision on their parole request.

Regie Rivera, 40, said she hand-carried her parole request to the USCIS office in Garapan in mid-October but has yet to receive a response from USCIS.

"I am now worried. It's now almost Nov. 27 and I haven't heard from USCIS," said Rivera, who has a 7-year-old U.S. citizen daughter.

Lolita Velasco, 56, said while her employer is filing her CW petition this week, she sympathizes with many others who not only don't have employers to file a petition on their behalf but also do not have parole status.

"But I also know that others are afraid to come out because their employer may not file their CW petition if they see them in the newspaper or if they join Occupy USCIS. My main concern is the families who would be separated if the parents of U.S. citizen children are sent home. How would you feel if that happens to your family?" she asked.

At the Occupy USCIS tent, many nonresidents have been taking turns manning the tent 24 hours a day. Their goal remains: To ask DHS to grant parole-in-place for all until Congress initiates action granting improved immigration status for long-term legal aliens in the CNMI.

CUC

From Page 1

consultant, Georgetown Consulting Group, said CUC chief financial officer Charles Warren.

"The primary reason for this emergency base rate petition is the employer contribution rate for defined benefit plan members, which has significantly gone up this fiscal year," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

The NMI Retirement Fund increased the 37 percent employer contribution rate to 60 percent effective Oct. 1, 2011. Warren said this will result in about \$1 million additional cost for the power division.

He said percentage of the proposed base rate increase is not final yet.

"We're still working on the numbers and the primary reason for this is because the employer contribution rate for the DB plan has gone up from 37 percent to 60 percent of the payroll. ... We need to file an emergency petition so we can afford to pay the retirement plan," he said.

A customer's power bill is composed of two parts: the levelized adjustment energy clause, which pays for the fuel cost, and the base rate, which is used to pay for power plant maintenance, personnel, independent power producers, and other operational expenses.

The utilities commission last approved a base rate hike in June this year, which resulted in a 1.9-percent average increase in the power bill of residential customers and a 5.1-percent increase for commercial and government customers.

Besides the increased employer contribution rate, Warren said that CUC

power customers and the volume of kilowatts sold have significantly dropped in the last few months.

"The number of consumers for power and the amount of power being consumed have fallen about 20 percent since the last base rate case so we need to make up the difference somehow," said Warren.

From February to November, CUC's actual kilowatts sold in volume declined by 20 percent while customer count went down by over 1,000, he said.

CUC officials earlier reported to the commission that electric sales have dropped and, with a weak CNMI and world economy, electric sales are projected to fall further.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC lost almost 1,000 electric customers, about 6 percent, from September 2010 to September 2011. Electric sales also declined dramatically from 255 million kWh in fiscal year 2010 to 234 million kWh in fiscal year 2011—a decline of about 9 percent.

Warren disclosed that CPUC will decide on three CUC matters at the January business meeting. These include the emergency base rate petition that will be filed next month, the proposed water and wastewater rate increase, and a new LEAC rate case.

The commission had just approved on Saturday a 10.7-percent reduction in the LEAC charge, but this rate is effective only until Jan. 31, 2012. CUC will have to petition for a new LEAC rate after that date.

The commission has tentatively scheduled a public hearing on the three cases on Jan. 20, 2012. It is expected to decide on these matters at the Jan. 26, 2012, business meeting.

ON MPLT STANDBY LINE OF CREDIT

'CDA at high risk of meeting reserved account requirement'

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Based on financial records and standing of the Commonwealth Development Authority, there is a high risk that it could not maintain the reserved loan requirement in the event the U.S.

Treasury approves CDA's loan for the State Small Business Credit Initiative program with the federal government, according to Marianas Public Land Trust officials Friday.

MPLT executive director Bruce MacMillan and legal counsel Robert Torres gave this

sobering financial assessment on CDA's financial capability to fulfill this obligation in their report to the board.

Saipan Tribune learned that CDA initially applied for a \$130-million loan for the SB-CIP with the U.S. Treasury, but the loan was rejected due some credibility issues. The federal agency, however, indicated that CDA can re-apply with justification that it can fulfill its obligation. MPLT's engagement in the program is to assure the U.S. Treasury, which administers the program, that if CDA will not be able to see the program through, then MPLT's standby line of credit will ensure that the project will proceed as scheduled and it will guarantee whatever

losses the project will incur during the five-year window.

As of Friday, U.S. Treasury has yet to decide on CDA's re-application.

According to MPLT chair Alvaro Santos, if CDA's re-application does not push through, this will render moot the credit line that will be provided by MPLT. However, in the event it gets federal approval, requirements and conditions will be set in place for CDA to ensure the security of the standby line of credit.

MacMillan explained that for every dollar of loan guaranty that CDA makes on a bank loan, CDA is required to set aside 25 percent of that guaranty in a cash reserve account.

For the \$8.4 million needed

in the reserved account, CDA is projected to meet this requirement through the following sources of funds: asset liquidation (\$3.1 million); principal collections (\$2.5 million); interest earned (\$3.3 million); property leases (\$590,000); and other inflows such as dividends (\$1.3 million). The projected income totals \$10.9 million.

MacMillan, however, noted that if CDA will get its operational budget of \$5.2 million from these funds, this will result in projected available funds of only \$5.7 million that can be put in the reserve account. This is \$2.7 million short of the \$8.4 million needed for reserve account.

"This analysis demonstrates the risks of the SSBIC program

as it relates to MPLT. It is likely that there will be calls made upon the standby letter of credit, which would likely not be repaid within the terms of our understanding of 160 days," said MacMillan in his presentation.

He cited that among the high-risk concerns is CDA's inability to sell foreclosed properties in a timely manner at projected values; its inability to receive from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. the preferred stock dividends during the projection period; and actual loan losses occurring at an unmanageable rate such as 10 percent or above.

According to Torres, MPLT's biggest challenge with CDA is collateral and the adequacy of security.

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Salvation Army's Thanksgiving lunch on Nov. 24

The Salvation Army will be providing a Thanksgiving lunch for low income families and anyone who would like to attend on Nov. 24, 12pm at the Minatchom Atdao pavillion. No alcohol will be served and be allowed on the premises.

Turkey, ham, and traditional Thanksgiving fare will be served and people who attend are encouraged to bring their ukuleles and other instruments and perform holiday or other appropriate songs. The Salvation Army welcomes donations of cash, turkey, and hams.

For more information, call Wayne Gillespie, ministry leader for the Salvation Army at 483-0885. (PR)

Joeten Kiyu library book sale

The friends of the Joeten Kiyu Public Library will be holding a book sale on Nov. 26 from 8am to 12:30pm at the library's premises in Susupe. Come early for the best selections and come late for the best bargains. (PR)

Palau Community Association

Palau Community Association will be holding an important meeting on Dec. 3, 9am at Navy Hill for the 16th state president officers and all Palauans in the islands are invited. For more information, call Felisa Brel at 989-2735 or PCA president Rufino Aguon at 483-6232. (PR)

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Immediate position available, round trip airfare, one year contract, and one month trial period. Health care experience preferred but not required. Minimum salary based on U.S. minimum wage.

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1. Proof of eligibility to work in U.S.A. (U. S. passport or green card);
2. Biographical data/Resume
3. Excellent communication skills;
4. Police clearance;
5. Two written references from former employers with contact information.

Deliver all required documents to Penny at Lollipops, Inc., Garapan no later than November 30, 2011. Interviews will be held on December 2, 2011. For more information call Dawn at 671 688-7151 or Penny at 670 234-8040.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **November 22**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **November 22**.

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Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

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If your company wants to participate in our program, please contact Celia Pillarina at 235-2440 ext. 171 or e-mail celia_pillarina@saipantribune.com

MCS wins Asia-Pacific mock trial tilt

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mount Carmel School's Mock Trial Knights took first place in the 3rd Annual Asia-Pacific Invitational Mock Trial Competition recently held in Agana, Guam.

Besting seven other teams from Guam and South Korea, the team won the competition after four rounds with a perfect 4-0 win-loss record.

The champion team was composed of Anastasia Schweiger, Jimin Ryu, and Lourence Camacho playing attorneys and Andrea Manese, Victor Cabrera, Anne Gelika Elenzano, and Ginny Wu playing witnesses.

The team was coached by Mount Carmel School teacher Lou Mendiola, CNMI Legislature legal counsel

Joseph L.G. Taijeron, and Public School System Board of Education member Galvin Deleon Guerrero.

The team also took home two additional awards, with Schweiger and Manese winning in the best attorney and best witness categories respectively.

Schweiger and Manese are no strangers to mock trial competition, having won similar awards in the past.

Schweiger won in the Best Performance category when she competed with the team at the 2010 National Mock Trial Competition in Philadelphia, while Manese was recognized as the top performer in the 2010 CNMI Junior High Mock Trial Competition.

"This was amazing! We couldn't have done this without our coaches and the entire

team," said Manese, referring to the school's Junior Varsity team that helped them prepare for the Guam competition.

Schweiger added, "To go to Guam and face off against teams from Guam and Korea was at first intimidating, but we pulled together and showed that we have what it takes to play in the big leagues."

This year's competition focused on bullying with a criminal case, the *People of Illinois vs. Kim Dixon*. In the case, Dixon is accused of reckless conduct, battery, and aggravated battery, after breaking the arm of Chris Lyman. The case also revolves around accusations that Dixon had bullied Lyman for over five years. Mount Carmel's team played two rounds on the prosecution and two rounds on the defense.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mock Trial Knights (left to right) Victor Cabrera, Anastasia Schweiger, Anne Gelika Elenzano, Jimin Ryu, Andrea Manese, Ginny Wu, and Lourence Camacho.

BOE affirms termination of audit firm's contract

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
Moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System's former independent auditor, J. Scott Magliari & Co., has protested the termination of its contract with PSS but the Board of Education affirmed Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan's decision to do so.

Saipan Tribune learned that the company had protested PSS' decision in September and that Sablan had denied its appeal. The company then appealed Sablan's decision to BOE. It was learned that the firm was represented by attorney Richard Pierce.

BOE chair Marylou S. Ada confirmed that J. Scott Magliari has asked for the board to reconsider PSS' decision in the matter. She said the board decided on Wednesday to affirm Sablan's earlier ruling that denied its appeal.

"We're standing by with our

decision to stay with Deloitte & Touche for convenience," Ada said.

She said the board had determined that PSS did not violate any procurement rules or regulations when it terminated the former auditor's contract or when it selected a new auditing firm.

PSS has already contracted Deloitte and Touche to do the necessary audit report for the system and the board for fiscal year 2011.

It was PSS procurement officer Robert Florian who informed the auditing firm's president, J. Scott Magliari, about PSS' decision to terminate its contract in early September. The termination notice indicated that the decision was made for the "convenience" of the school system.

Based on the section 13 of the contract, the chief procurement officer may—when the interests of PSS so require—terminate the contract in whole or in part

for the convenience of the PSS. The chief procurement officer shall also give written notice of the termination to the contractor specifying the part of the contract terminated and when the termination becomes effective. The contract also stipulated that the contractor shall also terminate outstanding orders and subcontracts as they relate to the terminated work.

Saipan Tribune learned that J. Scott Magliari & Co. has been PSS' independent auditing firm since the late 1990s. Its contract with the system is on a three-year basis, basically covering the completion of audit reports for three fiscal years. It was also learned that the auditing firm is being paid about \$35,000 a year or \$105,000 during a three-year period.

J. Scott Magliari & Co. last signed a new contract with PSS in 2010 for specific audit works for fiscal years 2010, 2011, and 2012.



Shaping Our Life, Our World and Our Future

Education Month Winning Theme by **Jerlyn Singeo**, 5th grade Oleai Elementary School

The power of learning must and always be celebrated as it empowers us in many ways. Education will continue to define us and continually define our way of living and how life would evolve. That is what education is all about; why we celebrate education—and that education must be celebrated everyday.

Today, the State Board of Education and the CNMI Public School System celebrates November as Education Month. We celebrate Education Month not because of its greatness or that we have become resilient, or have explored, discovered and benefited from the true wisdom of learning.

It is a celebration of our growth and acceptance that the education of our children is no longer a responsibility delegated to schools alone. Our home and community have helped define education, that it must be accepted as a shared responsibility together with our school, education leaders and practitioners, alike.

This month's celebration demonstrates what is needed now; that leadership in schools and the community is vital to help sustain and implement the continued collaborative partnerships. The deeply entrenched relationship between school, home and community has become a more powerful and successful approach to education.

We recognize the enormous potential of working together in what is essentially key to student learning.

To our Students

You have learned and found a home in our public schools, and gained insights that can be gleaned and used in the years to come;

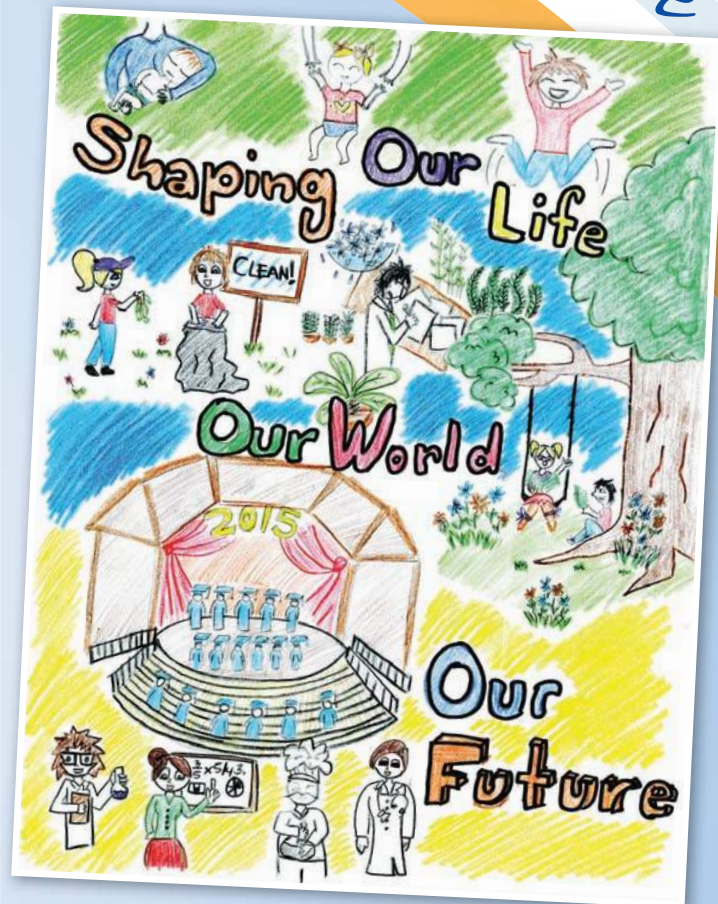
To our Education Leaders and Practitioners

The possibilities are endless with your interest, commitment and motivation to inspire our students. Your roles have been responsible in connecting our schools and our leaders to our community in making our Public School System one of the most effective learning institution that we can all be proud today. Thank you for making PSS as your career choice.

To our Parents and Community Partners

Your effective collaboration attests that there is greater meaning and value if there is family and community engagement in public education. You have all realized and reflected on the importance in providing our children the best, not only getting the support they need for success but to be their source of inspiration. Thank you for being there with us to educate our children.

In this month's celebration, the State Board of Education and the CNMI Public School System is at the forefront of initiating change in the attitude toward student learning, reflecting our lifetime goal of making it our WAY OF LIFE.



Winning Education Month Logo by **Nina Valerio**, 9th Grade Marianas High School

"Education is (one) of the basis of our (existence); that our success in life depends on the how much we value education... it will practically build the future. It yields new ideas and new jobs. But everyday has it challenges—that only education can solve.

Stephen Carino, 6th Grade,
William S. Reyes Elementary School
1st Place, Elementary Essay Contest

"Education is one of the main elements in developing a person's knowledge, character, and skill. It helps us in countless ways such as shaping our life, our world, and our future. Enriching our lives with education makes the world a better place and a promising future. Education permits us to achieve everlasting objectives and that nothing is impossible when we have the passion and determination in accomplishing our ambitions".

Hannah F. S. Hofschneider, 8th GRade
Hopwood Junior High School
1st Place, Secondary Essay Contest



STUDENTS FIRST

ACCOUNTABILITY • TRANSPARENCY • RESPONSIBILITY

'Reliefs are available but they are complex'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

While foreign workers who will be out of status after Nov. 27 will have the right to an immigration hearing, many of the legal relief they can avail of are so "complex" that they would need the assistance of a lawyer.

"Don't be too afraid. The idea is just to know what to do after the deadline. There are other reliefs available but these are more complex and you really do need to talk to an attorney to be able to explain to you in detail what these other reliefs are," said attorney Ted Laguatan, a California-based immigration

lawyer and counsel for the U.S. Pinoys for Good Governance.

Laguatan served as the presenter via Skype at the Immigration Information Presentation and Open Forum organized by the USP4GG CNMI Chapter last Saturday at the ground floor lobby of the Marianas Business Plaza.

The forum, attended by over a hundred individuals, was scheduled to start at 11am but got delayed due to technical difficulties.

Laguatan reiterated that foreign workers who will be out of status after Nov. 27 need not be afraid as they have a constitutional right to a hearing before

an immigration court so the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement "cannot just arrest and ship you out."

"The most important thing I'm telling you right now is what you do in case you are arrested for overstaying or whatever. It's not the end of the world. You will have a right to a hearing. And for many of you, you are qualified for certain reliefs."

But Laguatan noted that although he would like to help, it's "impossible to sustain a purely pro bono help" because of the need to hire paralegals or junior lawyers to handle the case. He said he doesn't get any funding from the Philippine government

or private sources.

"In some of your cases, it might be handled on a semi-pro bono basis," added Laguatan.

The one relief that's "simple," Laguatan emphasized, is to exercise one's constitutional right to a hearing before an immigration court.

"The information you're getting is very, very important because it helps you not to panic, not to be afraid," said Laguatan, who also answered questions from the audience.

Manglona recuses self from suit vs Palms Resort owner

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona has recused herself from a discrimination lawsuit filed by a former employee against Palms Resort Saipan.

In a one-page order issued Friday, Manglona did not specify the reason for her recusal besides saying that she must do so based on defendant Micronesian Resort Inc.'s Federal Rules of Civil Procedure 7.1 (Disclosure Statement) and pursuant to the federal law on the disqualification of a judge.

The U.S. Code states that "a judge shall disqualify if he knows that he, individually or as a fiduciary, or his spouse or minor child residing in his household, has a financial interest in the subject matter in controversy or in a party to the proceeding, or any other party interest that could be substantially affected by the outcome of the proceeding."

Manglona directed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's clerk to refer the case immediately to Chief Judge Alex Kozinski of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit for reassignment to another judge.

Jane Quitugua filed the lawsuit against Micronesian Resort, Inc., owner of Palms Resort Saipan, in May 2010. Through counsel Stephen C. Woodruff, Quitugua accused Palms Resort of "terminating her employment in an unlawful, discriminatory manner on a pretext of implementing organizational and staffing changes."

According to Woodruff, Quitugua was removed without advance notice, warning, or explanation.

Quitugua began working for the hotel as a front office supervisor in 1998 and was later promoted to senior assistant front office manager in 2007. She held on to that position until her termination on Jan. 6, 2009.

Palms Resort had asserted that Quitugua's termination was simply necessitated by business restructuring and that the company was "heading in a new direction with staff and management of the hotel." and "to allow for some changes in the front office department." (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Under \$10 roast chicken at Shirley's this Thanksgiving

The restaurant known for its home-cooked meals and signature fried rice will be offering a whole roast chicken at a price you can't beat this Thanksgiving.

Shirley's Coffee Shop's Thanksgiving Roast Chicken for only \$9.95 is the restaurant's own little way of showing appreciation to loyal customers during this holiday, said general manager Susan Macario.

"We want to prepare something special for our patrons this

Thanksgiving and we thought of cooking this whole roast chicken to be part of their holiday feast," she said. "At only under \$10 you can take home a whole roast chicken that you can enjoy with your family."

Shirley's chefs will use five secret herbs and spices in cooking the Thanksgiving Roast Chicken and the dish will be accompanied by a serving of the restaurant's mashed potatoes.

Founded in 1983, Shirley's

Coffee Shop has been serving the best of Chamorro, Filipino, and American cuisines in generous servings on Saipan and in Guam.

Thanksgiving Roast Chicken can be ordered in advance starting today and can be picked up on Thursday, Nov. 24, at either of Shirley's two Saipan outlets: at the ground floor of Century Hotel in Garapan or across the Mt. Carmel Church in Susupe.

For more information, call the Garapan restaurant at 233-4519 to 20 or the Susupe branch at 235-5379 to 80. (*PR*)



MCS HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

Mount Carmel School's principal Bobby Baldazo, left, and president, Margaret Dela Cruz, right, take a photo of some local goodies donated by MCS students on Friday, Nov. 18. The donation will be used for Operation Homefront Support to support servicemembers from the CNMI who are on active duty.

ARC STAFF

Scholarship Office opens applications for winter/spring term

The CNMI Scholarship Office is now accepting applications for financial assistance for this winter/spring 2011-2012 term. Application deadline is Thursday, Dec. 15, 2011.

For students who submitted an application for fall 2011, their application is still valid for winter/spring 2011-2012 under the condition that both their official transcript and winter/spring 2012 class schedule are submitted at the same time before Feb. 28, 2012. Incomplete documents will no longer be accepted. Ongoing applicants are more than welcome to resub-

mit a winter/spring 2011-2012 application before the Dec. 15 deadline.

For all new and returning applicants: In addition to the winter/spring 2011-2012 application, these students must submit their supporting documents together, and these include: acceptance letter; official transcript; copy of U.S. passport and/or birth certificate; winter/spring 2012 class schedule; and proof of CNMI residency for 2010 and 2011. The Scholarship Office will no longer be accepting incomplete application packages.

For (PL 14-37) Honors Scholarship Recipients: Their official transcript and winter/spring 2012 class schedule must be submitted as soon as they become available. Awards will be deferred until the office receives these documents.

Current and prospective applicants are encouraged to visit the Scholarship Office's website at <http://www.cnmischolarship.com/> to access required forms. Applicants are more than welcome to visit the office on Capital Hill, Building 1311 or call (670) 664-4750 for more information. (*PR*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Nov. 22, 1999

'Stop coaching the Legislature'

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes on Friday lashed back at criticisms leveled against the Legislature for sitting on significant bills that would raise badly-needed revenues for the government amid its mounting financial obligations. In a statement, the senator lambasted Dan Nielsen, the governor's special assistant for education, for questioning the inaction on legislation pending with the Senate for several months now. "If Mr. Nielsen focused more of his time and attention on our students scholarship needs, rather than armchair-coaching Senate legislative matters... then perhaps our student scholarship program would not be in such a shambles that it is in today," he said.

Tinian Dynasty joins HANMI

Tinian Dynasty & Hotel Casino has recently joined the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. This is the first hotel from the island municipality to join HANMI, which now represents 76 percent of the CNMI's total room inventory, or 3,480 rooms. "We are very pleased to join the Hotel Association and look forward to working with other members on common issues," said Anthony Ha, hotel general manager of the Tinian Dynasty. The Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino is Tinian's first major casino and hotel resort since the island voted to establish the gaming industry in 1989.

Nov. 22, 2000

Students march for family unity

Close to 300 Hopwood Junior High School students, teachers, and staff led yesterday a unity march clamoring for a truce among feuding CNMI families in light of tomorrow's Thanksgiving celebration. The parade around the Chalan Kanoa village early morning yesterday was second to the domestic violence march the Hopwood community slated last month. Participants to the hour-long march also made a stop at the William S. Reyes Elementary School to join hands with fellow public school students in the quest for community oneness. "We're calling for a truce between families this Thanksgiving season and the coming year," said Sam Joyner, Hopwood music teacher.

Guam lawyer calls Mitchell 'irrational'

A Guam-based attorney has called suspended lawyer Theodore R. Mitchell irrational, abusive and does not serve the interest of his clients. In his affidavit submitted before the Supreme Court, attorney David J. Luan denied the allegations of Mitchell that he attempted to influence the panel of justices conducting the suspension proceedings on the beleaguered attorney before the high court. In fact, Mitchell called him up at his residence and tried to borrow money from him because he was already having difficulty financing the case. "I truly feel sorry for Mitchell for his obviously a very sick man. It is my understanding that Mitchell has a family and I hope for their sake that he seek counseling or other professional help to deal with his temper and irrationality," Lujan said.

Nov. 22, 2001

US funding sought for new projects

The Tenorio administration is set to ask the US Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for federal funds to be used for several infrastructure projects on Rota, Tinian and Saipan. In a notice sent to the public, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said that, around December 10, he will submit a request to the HUD for the release of federal funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 for the construction of various projects in the Commonwealth. The funding, called the Federal Community Development Block Grant, will finance \$929,000 of the total cost of the projects.

'NMI needs anthrax-testing equipment'

The Department of Public Health is sending another suspicious substance to Guam for tests, in light of the anthrax scare that gripped Saipan in recent weeks. "We are working to figure out the best possible way to send them out," Health Secretary Joseph Kevin P. Villagomez said. Emergency Management Office Director Gregorio DeLeon Guerrero said the CNMI's lack of equipment has caused problems in immediately detecting whether the substance is a bioterrorist weapon or not. "We have to talk to people from Continental or any of the flight service providers if we can transport it to Guam. Getting it from here to Guam is the most difficult thing to do because some of the airlines might not want to carry it," Guerrero said.

Register for NMC's intersession semester on Dec. 1-2

The Northern Marianas College has announced that it will be offering academic courses during a new Intersession semester, where courses will meet for approximately three weeks from Dec. 5 to 29, 2011.

This new semester or "intersession" was created to help students achieve their educa-

tional goals; it is ideal for those who need one or two courses to graduate or for those who want to lighten their academic load during upcoming semesters.

In addition, the college will be accepting applications from new students for the intersession. To learn more about deadlines and requirements for new

students, including information on financial aid, contact Romeo Cuellar at 234-5498 ext. 1345, email romeoc@nmcnet.edu, or visit the Counseling and Career Center (Building I) for more information.

The college offers several degree and certificate programs, including bachelor of science degrees in education (emphasis on elementary education, special education, early childhood education, or rehabilitation and human services), associate degrees in business, business administration (emphasis on accounting, business management, or

Intersession Semester IMPORTANT DATES

Dec. 1-2: Registration days
Dec. 5: First day of instruction
Dec. 5-6: Add/drop days (100-percent refund)
Dec. 8: Holiday
Dec. 9: Last day for 80-percent refund
Dec. 13: Last day for 40-percent refund

Dec. 16: Last day to withdraw from courses
Dec. 26: Holiday
Dec. 29: Last day of instruction
Dec. 30-31: Final exams
Jan. 2, 2012: Holiday
Jan. 3, 2012: Grades due

computer applications), liberal arts, nursing, natural resources management, criminal justice, and hospitality management. Moreover, it offers short-term certificate programs in different

vocational, academic, and professional areas.

Registration for the intersession semester is on Thursday, Dec. 1 and Friday, Dec. 2, 2011, from 8am to 5pm.

Ongoing students must clear any outstanding balances at the Finance Office, the Library, or the Curriculum Resource Center before they can register for classes. To find out if any balances exist, students can visit the Office of Admissions and Records.

For more information about the Intersession semester, log on to www.nmcnet.edu to view the Frequently-Asked-Questions (FAQs) section, class schedules and important dates. For additional information or inquiries, contact the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498 Ext. 1528. (NMC)

Glushko Academy to stage Swan Lake excerpts in Dec. production



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

On Dec. 9 and 10, 2011, Anna Glushko will arrange a spectacular holiday performance of *Swan Lake*, one of the world's most popular and beautiful ballet classics, featuring the musical compositions of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Since 2002, every year in December Glushko's Ballet Academy has been constantly improving the quality of its professional ballet productions. Each performance includes both professional international stars and the talents of over 45 aspiring young stars from the island, all masterfully choreographed in performances that feature excerpts from world famous ballets. These annual productions provide the only opportunity island residents have to experience ballet for themselves.

On Dec. 9 and 10, 2011, Anna Glushko will arrange a spectacular holiday performance of *Swan Lake*, one of the world's most popular and beautiful ballet classics, featuring the musical compositions of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky.

Performances are scheduled at 7pm on both Dec. 9 and 10 (Friday and Saturday), at the Amphitheater of the American Memorial Park. Primas or stars from both Korea and Russia will again perform.

Tickets—only \$15 for adults and \$10 for under 12 years old—can be purchased at all Shell gas stations on Saipan, Gourmet Restaurant, Shenanigans in Garapan, 360 Restaurant, Manic Inn in Susupe, and Kevin's Department Store in Chalan Kanoa.

The production cost alone to stage this wonderful event is more than what the Ballet Academy earns in a full year from tuition but, thanks to generous sponsors and donors, what would only be a dream will again become a wonderful reality. Some of sponsors and donors include: Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort, Shell Marianas, Tan Holdings Foundation, Sasha Co. Ltd, First Hawaiian

Bank, Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii, Bank of Saipan, Pacific Saipan Distribution, Burger & Comer CPAs, DFS Galleria Saipan, Coconut Computer Services, Saipan Aquaculture Inc., Triple J, Gourmet Restaurant, Marianas Business Plaza, Dental Care, Hyatt Saipan, Manic Inn, Delta Air Lines, Asiana Airlines, and attorneys Joshua Berger, O'Connor & Dotts, Bruce Mailman and Maya Kara, Douglas Cushnie, and Stephen Nutting.

Contact Glushko regarding "The International Ballet of Stars" at 235-6900 or 483-6271 or email her at glushkosacademy@yahoo.com. (PR)



HOMEFRONT SUPPORT

Le'ah Murphy, American Red Cross, and Geri Willis, Northern Marianas College, far left, accept donations from Dr. Crystal Edmister and her staff from Saipan Seventh-day Adventist Clinic for Operation CNMI Home Front Support care packages. To be sure soldiers receive a care package, send names, branch of service, and full mailing address to homefront@docomopacific.com or by texting 989-CNMI (2664).

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

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Manha Pie, Custard Pie, Apple Pie, Lemon Pie, Coconut Custard Pie, Walnut Pie, Cherry Pie, Boston Cream Pie, Chocolate Cream Pie, Poppy Seed Cream Pie, Keylime Pie, Apple Crunch Pie....

Refrigerated Cheese Cake, Baked Cheese Cake, Strawberry Swirl Cheese Cake....

We also have rolls available—Whole Wheat, Sourdough or Plain.

Happy Thanksgiving!

Marg's Kitchen is located North of Mt. Carmel Cathedral.
Tel: 234-3706

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 277Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
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Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

There's no doubt: Law is constitutional

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Given the Supreme Court's own precedents and the authority the Constitution accords Congress to regulate interstate commerce, it's difficult to see how the court can overturn the Obama administration's health-care reform law. The court announced last week it will hear arguments on challenges to the law next spring; a ruling is expected in the middle of the 2012 presidential race next summer.

Justices should shut out the political clamor and rule the way logic and precedence demand—in favor of the law.

For the first time in the nation's history—and after a debate that had been going on for more than half a century—Congress approved a law that, while not perfect, guaranteed health care to most Americans. Considering that 50 million Americans were without any health insurance, that is no small accomplishment.

The law accomplishes this through an individual health insurance mandate that opponents say is beyond the scope of the national government. The opponents are wrong about this, as Senior Judge Laurence Silberman—a Ronald Reagan appointee—noted in a U.S. Appeals Court ruling last week.

The mandate “certainly is an encroachment on individual liberty, but it is no more so than a command that restaurants or hotels are obliged to serve all customers regardless of race, that gravely ill individuals cannot use a substance their doctors described as the only effective palliative for excruciating pain, or that a farmer cannot grow enough wheat to support his own family,” he wrote.

The court in the past has weighed in on all those issues and decided in favor of federal regulation.

Nor is health care a matter of individual choice. Everyone uses it, insured or not. Everyone at some point visits a doctor's office or hospital.

For the uninsured, that often means visits to emergency rooms that they can't afford. That drives up costs for everyone else and has a serious impact on the national health care market.

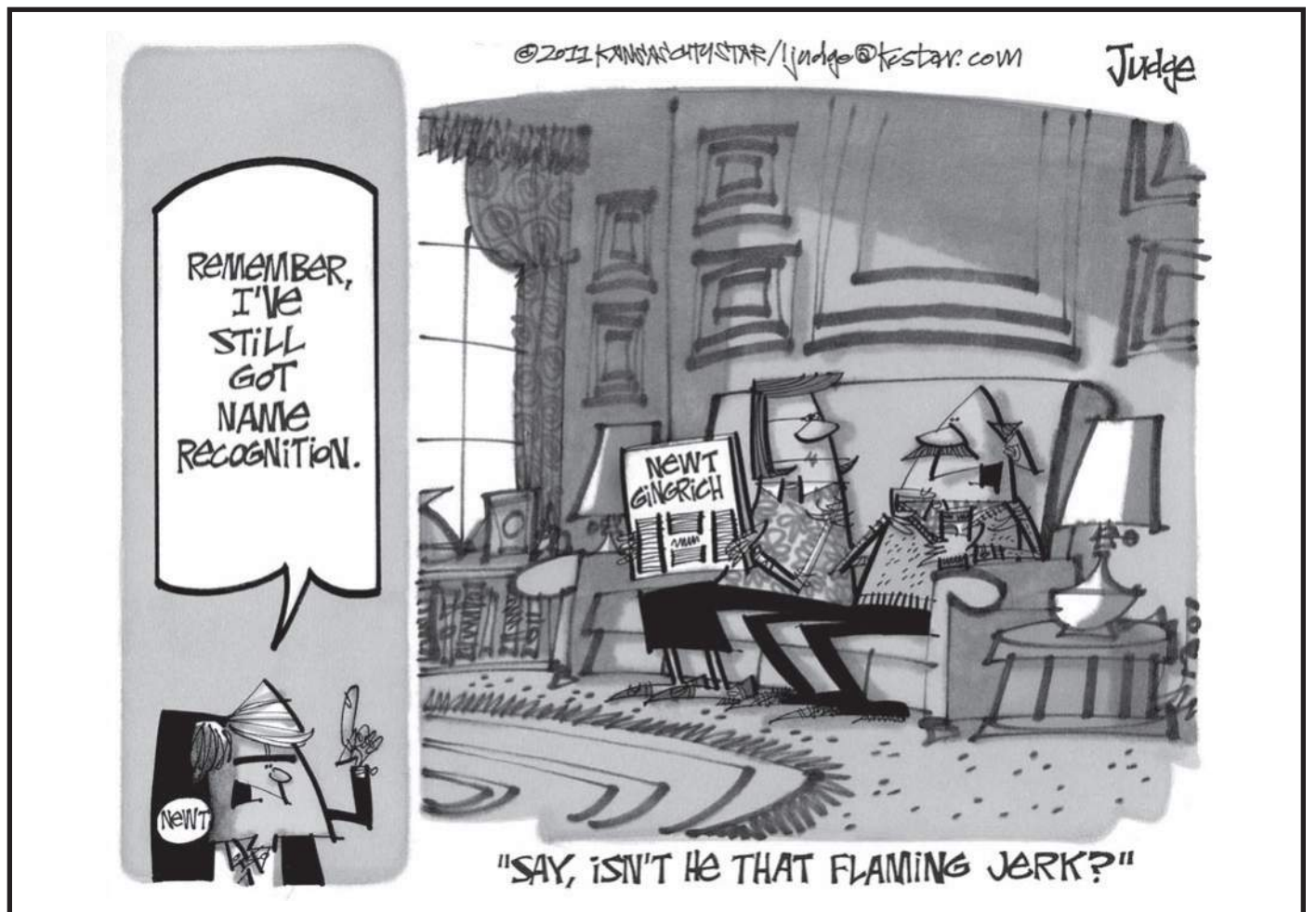
And that's the point: It's a national market and falls under the Constitution's commerce clause.

As Silberman also wrote in the ruling: “the right to be free from federal regulation is not absolute, and yields to the imperative that Congress be free to forge national solutions to national problems, no matter how local—or seemingly passive—their individual origins.”

Four appeals courts have issued rulings on the law. Two have upheld it, one said the challenge was premature and one—the challenge the high court is taking up—ruled against the individual mandate. The Supreme Court also will take up the issue of the law's expansion of Medicaid, which also should be upheld.

The 11th Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled against the individual mandate, upheld the Medicaid part, arguing that the federal government would bear most of the costs of the program's expansion and noting that the states had ample powers to develop alternative programs if they want to drop out of Medicaid.

The law is not perfect; it doesn't do enough to address cost issues in health care. But there should be no question that the law is in full compliance with the Constitution.



Stopping violence against women

In early November, Australia and the United States co-hosted a policy dialogue with Pacific nations to devise ways to stop violence against women in the Pacific. It's an endeavour that sits sharply in my mind, having returned from a visit to Vanuatu only last month.

In Vanuatu, I was privileged to see the work of the AusAID-funded Vanuatu Women's Centre, or VWC, to combat violence against women in that country.

Traveling with members of the VWC to the remote northern province of Torba, I met a local chief, Greg, who had walked for eight hours from his village in West Vanua Lava just to tell us his story. Disturbed by the high levels of violent attacks against women on his island, five years earlier Greg had become one of the local Women's Centre's male advocates working to combat violence against women. His dedication to the role was measured not only in each mile he walked through Torba's jungle to chronicle his work but in the daily challenge of protecting the women in his community from vicious, often permanently disabling attacks.

I had the honor of being appointed by the Government to be Australia's first Global Ambassador for Women and Girls in September this year, tasked with international advocacy to advance the position of women and girls across the globe but especially in the Asia-Pacific region.

My role as Global Ambassador was created by the Australian government and announced jointly by Prime Minister Gillard, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Rudd, and the Minister for Employment Participation and Childcare and the Status of Women, Ms. Ellis. A global scourge requires a global response. It's a cause to which the Australian government is deeply committed.

Globally, one in three women will experience violence at the hands of men in their lifetime. In the Pacific this is as high as two in three—two-thirds of the female population experiencing violence from husband, partner, family, or friend in their lifetime.

Violence against women is a fundamental development issue. Gender inequity, and the violence that attends it, must be tackled head on for developing nations to reach their full potential. As long as violence against women continues, women, their children, their families, whole communities and whole nations are at risk of entrenched poverty and suffering. By stopping violence, and empowering women, we bring untold flow-on benefits to nations, developed and developing alike.

That's why Australia recently committed \$96.4 million over four years to combat violence against women. This includes \$25 million to expand efforts to end violence against women in Papua New Guinea and across the Pacific. In the Pacific, we are funding empowerment projects and contributing to the promising work already being done by Pacific communities themselves.

We are funding research to create a baseline for understanding the problem in the Pacific. Recognizing the specific and universal aspects of this phenomena, we are supporting programs to improve women's access to the justice system, strengthen the justice system

By PENNY WILLIAMS

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Penny Williams is Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls.



so male perpetrators can be brought to justice, provide assistance for survivors, educate women, and educate men—changing consciousness about gender-based violence so we can bring about lasting change, relational change.

We are pleased to be working with partners like UN Women and neighbouring governments and non-government organizations on this important issue.

Critical are male advocacy training programs—like the one that has seen Greg in Torba become such a committed advocate for the rights of women and girls in his community. Men being trained to understand what violence against women is, how they can stop it, through modifying their own behaviour and the behaviour of other men.

By educating men in this way we will achieve real change for the future. As Australia's Foreign Minister, Mr. Rudd, said to the APEC Summit on Women and the Economy in September, “Gender based violence is not just a challenge for women, it is a challenge for men. The core problem is this, my gender, the male gender is responsible. Until we deal with this, in many of the developing countries of our part of the world, we will not be able to embrace full economic opportunities for women. That is a core truth.”

White Ribbon Day on Nov. 25, is a call to action for all men to stand up against violence against women across the world. Mr. Rudd is a White Ribbon Ambassador and has “taken the oath” never to commit, excuse, or remain silent about violence against women. In San Francisco he called on male leaders across the region to do the same.

In only a few short months as Australia's Global Ambassador for Women and Girls, I have witnessed the changes that can occur if violence prevention programs work: women and girls free of violence, taking up their rightful equal place as productive members of society.

I greatly value the opportunity to work with our partner countries in the Pacific to learn how we can best assist to stop violence against women for good, and to learn from your experiences, to fight violence against women and girls in Australian society.

Every woman has a right to live a life free of violence. I join Mr. Rudd in calling on men to take a stand on White Ribbon Day, for the women in your lives, and for women all over the world, sharing the path of Greg and other male advocates in Vanuatu, across the difficult terrain of this complex issue.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A time for change

By **ALFRED A. PANGELINAN**
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

The employers' rat race turning their workers into CW1 status is about to reach the finish line. This rat race, I must say, has affected the chances of our U.S. workers in filling vacant positions under the primary preference. We have experience inflated job qualifications that selectively disqualify U.S. workers from the job, or simply telling them that there is no job available when there is, in order to keep the services of a foreign national.

Some employers actually believed that USCIS would not look into the specifics of job advertisement that are selective and unfairly disqualify U.S. workers from filling their needs. Perhaps many of these employers have submitted their petitions successfully and are awaiting the work visa issuance with this belief. I believe, however, that Mr. Gullick and his team will do so if it is properly brought to their attention. We'll see what happens next. I hope that it will not be a "rude awakening" or a "dog day afternoon" situation.

I am sure that you know that you are challenged with another date set by the final rule. Yes, the zero-down date that is right around the corner. Employers now have to change and switch a bit of their strategy in hiring to supplement their labor services needs. I am sure that at this very moment they are thinking, if not planning, or should he planning, to identify the jobs that they will still need even after the zero-down date arrives but no longer can be occupied by a foreign national worker. Legitimate employers should be worrying about this by now.

This is where the CNMI Department of Labor offers help and provides assistance, working in partnership with employers. Our new direction offers better and more interactive programs between employers and job seekers. This department is starting its campaign in understanding the employers' needs based on their expectation. We believe that, by understanding an employer's tradition, culture, and company image when selecting a candidate to fill job needs, we could help groom job seekers to meet this need. I believe this is a program that we need to put in place to assist employers to their satisfaction.

We also installed and implemented a program to groom job seekers, helping them understand the type of jobs they are interested in, would enjoy doing, and could pursue as a career. These are programs that

would make job seekers more employable by increasing their awareness of how an employer operates and selects candidates for work based upon their perspective of what makes a good worker. These programs will meet the employer's demand for a good worker.

The department is also working on having a good working relationship with other agencies within or outside the government to enhance the ability of our job seekers as well as the employers. It focuses on developing a one-stop concept in enhancing the worker's ability to find, keep, and grow on jobs. Agencies like the Workforce Investment Agency, Northern Marianas Trade Institute, Nutrition Assistance Program, Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, and Northern Marianas College.

So you see, we can work as partners in developing an effective Labor Management Worker Pool to the satisfaction of employers as well as U.S. workers. Allow us to develop this working relation with good faith intent.

It is time for a change. We need it. To some employers, they may not be receptive to this offer, but to the legitimate ones, I should think it is a legitimate issue that waits for good results.

Alfred A. Pangelinan is director of Employment Services at the CNMI Department of Labor.

Letters to the Editor

OTOMS brief

"Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak; courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen."

—Winston Churchill

The case presented in the lawsuit that was filed in the U.S. District Court of the Northern Mariana Island by seven people on Oct. 20, 2011, presents an issue of extraordinary importance to the rights of foreign workers and small-scale businesses in the CNMI and seeks to obtain for plaintiffs and those similarly situated declaratory and injunctive relief against the full implementation of the CNMI-only Transitional Worker Classification Final Rule.

The plaintiffs' brief statement states: "The W Final Rule affects private interests of foreign workers as well as the businesses community. Due process is the simple notion that the Constitution requires governmental procedures to be fundamentally fair before a person and/or establishments may be deprived of rights, liberty, or property. The very short period of time by which DHS seek to enforce the CW Rule also violates due process as it curtails the process by which petitioners and individuals in the same situation cannot exhaust all remedies afforded to them due to very limited period of time to comply with all the requirements as stated in the Final Rule. The CW Rule potentially affects liberty or property and rights of foreign workers and businesses and fairness should govern in all its provisions."

A commitment to legality is at the heart of all advanced legal systems. The due process clause promises that before depriving a citizen of life, liberty, or property, and/or entity, government must follow fair procedures. Thus it is not always enough for the government just to act in accordance with whatever law is created by humans who happen to be lawmakers. Citizens may also be entitled to have the government observe or offer fair procedures, whether or not those procedures have been provided for in the law on the basis of which it is acting. Action denying the process that is "due" would be unconstitutional. The purpose of the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment is to secure every person within the State's jurisdiction against intentional and arbitrary discrimination, whether occasioned by express terms of a statute or by its improper execution through duly constituted agents. *Willowbrook v. Olech*, 528 U.S. 1073 (2000), 120 S. Ct. 1073, 1074-75 (2000) (per curiam) (quoting *Sioux City Bridge Co. v. Dakota County*, 260 U.S. 441,445 (1923)).

Certain provisions of the CW Final Rule violate the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution. This provision or condition is deemed a source of potential abuse, putting workers at the mercy of employers. It also creates an unfair labor situation, violates the equal protection clause, and contravenes the CNRA's congressional intent to assure worker protection from potential abuse and exploitation. There are literally millions of aliens within the jurisdiction of the United States. The 5th Amendment, as well as the 14th Amendment, protects every one of these persons from deprivation of life, liberty, or property without due process of law...even one whose presence in this country is unlawful, involuntary, or transitory is entitled to that constitutional protection." *Wong Yang Sung v. McGrath*, 339 U.S. 33, 48-51 (1950), *Wong Wing v. United States*, 163 U.S. 228, 238 (1896), *Russian Volunteer Fleet v. United States*, 282 U.S. 481, 489 (1931).

It is true that aliens who have once passed through our gates, even illegally, may be expelled only after proceedings conforming to traditional standards of fairness encompassed in due process of law. *The Japanese Immigrant Case*, 189 U.S. 86, 100 -101 (1903); *Wong Yang Sung v. McGrath*, 339 U.S. 33, 49 -50 (1950); *Kwong Hai Chew v. Colding*, 344 U.S. 590, 598 (1953).

DHS in the CW Rule declares its belief that it is reasonable to interpret that the CNMI permit is comparable to a federal immigration status because they both set conditions for the admission of foreign workers. However, the permit system or CW classification DHS created should not unduly burden employers and employee, taking into account the short period of time by which it was released and sought to be implemented. The immediate implementation of the CW Final Rule shortly after its release contradicts the flexibility they claim to have. Lack of flexibility in the CW rule's implementation does not bode well for the purpose of carrying out congressional intent of avoiding adverse effects to the CNMI economy and violates procedural fairness. Outreach programs by USCIS prior to promulgation of CW rule failed to address the status of workers with pending labor cases and status of workers with conditional umbrella permits and others that were not duly covered by the CNRA.

DHS' CW Rule provision that domestic workers must be channeled through an established, legitimate business operation is unreasonable and violates due process, given the very short period of time allotted for domestic workers who have current and legitimate employers in the person of private individuals or households to look for businesses or agencies that will petition them for a CW status. This onerous provision has also spawned the birth of agencies or establishments that charge certain fees for the processing of CW applications or petitions for domestic workers, without regard for their welfare or regulation, paving the way for abuse and exploitation, which the provision reportedly seeks to prevent. Just recently,

domestic helpers and house workers were now given a chance to file for CW status.

Provision on the filing of applications or petitions for a CW worker is deemed vague, ambiguous, and confusing and lacks procedural fairness due to the deficiency of parameters set for worker eligibility or qualification under the CW as distinguished from those eligible or qualified under the INA. Employers who are required to file attestations hesitate, dither, or are unwilling to commit themselves to file CW petitions for workers for fear of violating conditions that are unclear and uncertain. Employees are also not certain as to what category they should belong. Irreparable damage on the part of the foreign workers' statuses and profession is now in place and, with no choice at all, employers' petitions will not materialize within the very limited time to file under the Final Rule.

"The Final Rule is confusing, conflicting, and contradicting and therefore, it is not enforceable."—Manuel Vilaga

"The DHS Final Rule drives affected foreign workers and businesses into a confined space, where there is very limited mobility and insufficient breathing space."—CJM.

In the latest development of our lawsuit, the seven individual who filed the lawsuit believe that the merit of the case will prevail above all, and we will deal with it diligently and with perseverance. Thanks to Attorney D.

Carlito J. Marquez
Gerardo de Guzman
Hector Sevilla
Bonifacio Sagan
Eduardo Elenzano
Manuel Vilaga
Lee, Jong Ho
October Twenty One Movement, Saipan (OTOMS)

It's Christmastime

On July 13, 2011, in a letter titled "I'll believe it when I see it." I eloquently stated that I wouldn't believe my tax return would be here before Christmas. This was in response to the Lt. Governor's statement that all checks would be issued prior to December so everyone would have a great Christmas. Well, lo and behold, it isn't. I don't want to be the one that said, "I told you so," but I told you so. I know it's four weeks before Christmas, but I have been in contact with Finance and the Governor's Office on a regular basis in the past two weeks. I have discovered it won't be at least three to four more weeks before I get my check and that is if I'm lucky. It may take another year and a half to get my check again. Oh no, I'm not having my sweet little angel-faced darling Alexis's Christmas ruined again. Finance told me that they haven't even finished March's filings yet and it's almost Dec. 1. I have pleaded, begged, wrote letters, described my situation, and nothing. So here is my Christmas wish to everyone:

*It's Christmas time,
There's a need to be afraid.
At Christmas time,
We were promised our tax rebate.
But for so many there will be no joy,
With no tax rebates
Before Christmastime.
But say a prayer,
Pray for the other ones.*

*At Christmastime,
It's hard when there is none.
There's a world outside your window,
And it's a world of dread and fear,
as with so many needing to leave here.
The only water flowing this year,
Will be the bitter sting of tears.
And the Christmas bells that ring here,
Will be the clanging chimes of doom.
Well tonight thank God,
it's them instead of you.
And there won't be snow in our house,
This Christmastime.*

The greatest gift Alexis will get this year will be a bowl of rice. Why do I have to tell her this every night? No gifts from no rebates two years in a row? I don't want to say it, but I told you so. Does the government care it's Christmastime at all? Here's to the Gov.:






*Raise a glass for everyone
Spare a thought this yuletide for the deprived
If the table was turned would you survive?
Here's to them, the ones being oppressed
You don't have to feel sorrow just selflessness
Give a little help to the helpless
Do they care it's Christmastime at all?*

Keith Brooks
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 15 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 88° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 76
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Pohnpei	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 75
Majuro	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 77

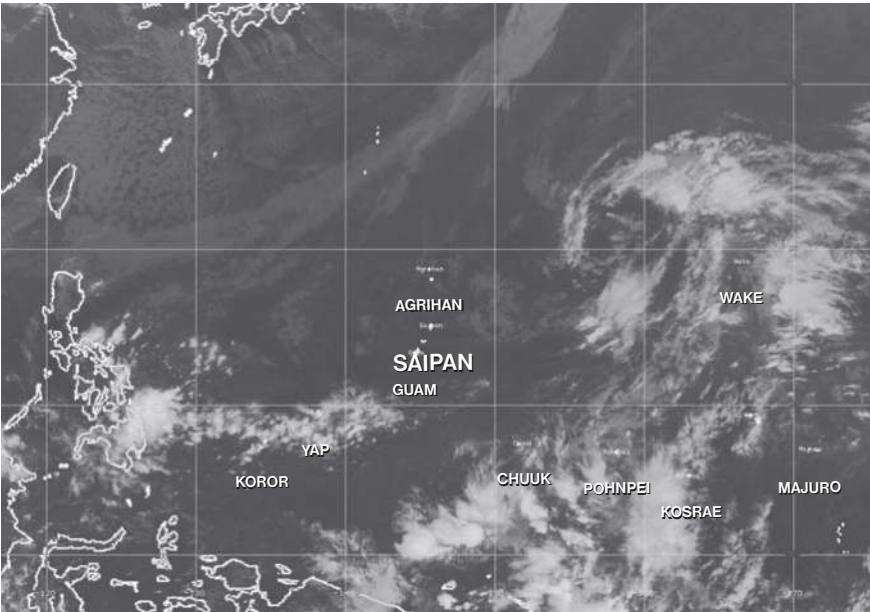
Around The Globe

Auckland	Cloudy	▲ 71 ▼ 58
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 42 ▼ 25
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 66
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	▲ 83 ▼ 73
London	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 46
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 66 ▼ 48
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Miami	Partly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 69
New York	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 49
Osaka	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 49
Paris	Showers	▲ 53 ▼ 42
Pusan	Showers	▲ 58 ▼ 38
Rome	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 48
Salem	Rain	▲ 55 ▼ 47
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 62 ▼ 52
Seoul	Showers	▲ 44 ▼ 28
Tokyo	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 49
Washington, DC	Showers	▲ 54 ▼ 53

Tides

Saipan Harbor				
5:20 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet	
10:29 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet	
4:33 PM	Today	High Tide:	2.3 Feet	
11:29 PM	Today	Low Tide:	-0.1 Feet	

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

An equatorial trough stretches eastward south of Palau and Yap from 3N130E to 5N145E. Little activity is noted within the trough; however a line of scattered showers and thunderstorms is found in the trade-wind convergence north of the trough from 8N to 10N between 130E and 142E. This line of thunderstorms and showers is affecting both Yap and Palau. Farther to the east, a broad weak circulation along the eastern side of the equatorial trough exists near 5N145E and stretches toward the northeast from 5N145E to 10N152E and then north of 25N157E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms are located in the vicinity and south of Chuuk and Pohnpei and just west of Kosrae in trade-wind convergence along the southeast side of the trough axis from the equator to 7N between 144E and 162E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Wednesday	6:22 AM	5:44 PM
Thursday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Friday	6:23 AM	5:44 PM
Saturday	6:24 AM	5:44 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:53 AM	2:57 PM
Wednesday	3:54 AM	3:47 PM
Thursday	4:57 AM	4:42 PM
Friday	6:02 AM	5:41 PM
Saturday	7:07 AM	6:43 PM

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI
Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

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- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

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- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 17, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)
C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)
C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN
C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP	C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP
C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7	C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7
C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily	C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily
C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7	C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7
C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6	C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6
C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7	C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN
DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily	DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily
DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN
OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1	OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily
OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7
OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN
OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN
3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN
3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN
OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN	OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT
C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM	C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT	C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM
C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	OZ702/605 12:45pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM	PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM
C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM	C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau
C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau	C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am 1, 5 via GUM	C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am 3, 6 via GUM	
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN
OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN	OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN
OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN
C05076/179 3:05pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN	C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 1020	10:20	10:45	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

Debt panel poised to admit failure

WASHINGTON (AP)—A special deficit-reduction supercommittee appears likely to admit failure on Monday, unable or unwilling to compromise on a mix of spending cuts and tax increases required to meet its assignment of saving taxpayers at least \$1.2 trillion over the coming decade.

The panel is sputtering to a close after two months of talks in which the members were never able to get close to bridging a fundamental divide over how much to raise taxes to address a budget deficit that forced the government to borrow 36 cents of every dollar it spent last year.

Members of the bipartisan panel, formed during the summer crisis over raising the government's borrowing limit, spent their time on Sunday in testy performances on television talk shows, blaming each other for the impasse.

In a series of television interviews, not a single panelist seemed optimistic about any last-minute breakthrough. And it was clear that the two sides had never gotten particularly close, at least in the official exchanges of offers

that were leaked to the media.

Aides said any remaining talks had broken off.

"There is one sticking divide. And that's the issue of what I call shared sacrifice," said panel co-chair Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., on CNN's "State of the Union."

"The wealthiest Americans who earn over a million a year have to share too. And that line in the sand, we haven't seen Republicans willing to cross yet," she said.

Republicans said Democrats' demands on taxes were simply too great and weren't accompanied by large enough proposals to curb the explosive growth of so-called entitlement programs like Medicare and Medicaid.

"If you look at the Democrats' position it was 'We have to raise taxes. We have to pass this jobs bill, which is another almost half-trillion dollars. And we're not excited about entitlement reform,'" countered Republican Jon Kyl of Arizona on

NBC's "Meet the Press."

Under the committee's rules, any plan would have to be unveiled Monday, but it appeared that Murray and co-chair Rep. Jeb Hensarling of Texas would instead issue a statement declaring the panel's work at a close, aides said.

"Put a bow on it. It's done," said an aide to a supercommittee Republican.

Failure by the panel would trigger about \$1 billion over nine years in automatic across-the-board spending cuts to a wide range of domestic programs and the Pentagon budget, starting in

2013, according to the Congressional Budget Office. This action, called a "sequester," would also generate \$169 billion in saving from lower interest costs on the national debt.

Defense Secretary Leon Panetta says the required cuts of up to \$454 billion to the Pentagon

would be "devastating" and leave a "hollow force," and defense hawks of Capitol Hill promise to unwind them. But that effort will be complicated by the insistence of other lawmakers that the overall amount of the budget cuts be left in place.

"I can't imagine that, knowing of the importance of national defense, that both Democrats and Republicans wouldn't find a way to work through that process so we still get the \$1.2 trillion in cuts, but it doesn't all fall on defense," said supercommittee Republican Sen. Jon Kyl of Arizona.

The panel's failure also sets up a fight within a battle-weary, dysfunctional Congress over renewing a payroll tax cut and jobless benefits for the long-term unemployed, both of which are set to expire at the end of the year. Both proposals are part of President Barack Obama's \$447 billion jobs plan.

Extending the current 2 percentage point payroll tax cut isn't a popular idea with many Republicans, but allowing it to expire could harm the economy, economists say. So too would a cutoff of unemployment benefits averaging about \$300 a week to millions of people who have been out of work for more than six months.



In this Nov. 15, 2011 photo, Sen. Rob Portman, R-Ohio, leaves reporters behind as he turns into a restricted corridor in the Capitol for closed-door talks with fellow Republican members of the Joint Select Committee on Deficit Reduction in Washington.

United launches Economy Plus on its first Continental aircraft

CHICAGO—The first Continental Airlines aircraft with Economy Plus entered service on Nov. 19, offering Continental customers four inches of extra legroom in the forward rows of the Economy cabin.

The aircraft, a Boeing 767-400, also features new flat-bed seats in BusinessFirst and new touchscreen seat-back monitors in Economy. In addition, the aircraft is the first

in the Continental fleet to feature the popular Channel 9 air traffic control communications. Customers in both cabins also will have advanced audio/video on demand and in-seat power outlets.

"The merger of United and Continental is a unique opportunity to build an airline with leading products and services that customers value and are willing to pay for," said Jim Compton, executive vice president and chief revenue officer of United Continental Holdings. "United's customers who sit in Economy Plus consistently tell us they are more satisfied with their travel experiences, and we are excited to expand this option to more customers of the new United."

United introduced Economy Plus in 1999. Today, the airline offers the extra-legroom seating on all mainline aircraft and more than 150 larger United Express regional jets. When the company fully deploys Economy Plus on Continental and Q400 regional aircraft, the new United's fleet will include more than 40,000

Economy Plus seats, providing customers more than 122,000 extra-legroom economy class seats each day, more than any airline in the world.

Customers with elite status in United's MileagePlus and Continental's OnePass frequent-flyer programs may confirm complimentary seat assignments in Economy Plus, when available. Customers may also purchase

Economy Plus seating on United and United Express aircraft through united.com, through a reservations agent or during the check-in process online or at the airport.

Customers booked on Continental flights that include Economy Plus may purchase available Economy Plus seating during check-in. In 2012, after the airline retrofits a larger number of Continental aircraft, customers will also be able to purchase Continental's Economy Plus seating online and through a reservations agent. Additional information is available at continental.com/economyplus.

The expansion of Economy Plus to Continental aircraft comes as the company continues with plans to invest more than \$550 million to upgrade aircraft interiors, including new flat-bed seats in premium cabins, larger overhead bins and improved in-flight entertainment options. The new flat-bed seats are available today on more than 125 aircraft. In addition, more than 160 aircraft feature DIRECTV. *(United Continental)*

United Airlines



Cyprus president to visit offshore gas rig

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP)—Cyprus' president plans to visit a U.S. rig on Monday that is carrying out exploratory drilling for gas off the island's coast, despite protests from Turkey that the hydrocarbon search ignores the rights of breakaway Turkish Cypriots.

A government statement released on Sunday said President Dimitris Christofias will travel to U.S. company Noble Energy's rig about 115 miles (185 kilometers) south of the island along with four other senior government officials.

Noble estimated last week that the field inside Cyprus' exclusive economic zone may yield between 3 to 9 trillion cubic feet of natural gas. Cyprus said a formal estimate on the deposit's size will be made

early next month when drilling is completed.

Christofias' visit comes amid ongoing peace talks aimed at reunifying the island, which was split into a Greek-speaking south and a Turkish-speaking north in 1974, when Turkey invaded after a coup by supporters of union with Greece.

Turkey said drilling may jeopardize the talks, but Greek Cypriots argue it could act as an incentive to speed up a peace accord because Turkish Cypriots would share in any gas wealth.

Cyprus joined the European Union in 2004, but only the internationally recognized south enjoys membership benefits. Turkish Cypriots declared and independent state in 1983, but only Turkey recognizes it and maintains 35,000 troops there.

Commerce Minister Praxoulla Antoniadou said in an interview with Kathimerini newspaper Sunday that just 1 trillion cubic feet of gas could meet the island's energy needs for 30 years.

Cyprus is preparing to invite tenders for more exploratory drilling inside the island's 17,000 square-mile (51,000 square-kilometer) exclusive economic zone before the end of the year.

Antoniadou said she receives daily "knocks on her office door from three to four" local and foreign investors looking put their money in either further exploration or gas spinoff industries.

She said that Cyprus could become a gas supplier to the EU, if deposit estimates are confirmed.

Israeli energy company

Delek has proposed a partnership with Cyprus to build a facility on the island to process and export gas found in Cypriot and Israeli waters. Delek is part of a Noble Energy-led consortium exploiting Israel's offshore natural gas finds.

Relations between Turkey and Israel, formerly close allies, remain strained following last year's Israeli raid on a Gaza-bound flotilla that killed eight Turkish citizens and a Turkish-American.

Turkey has said it would consider a Cypriot-Israeli deal demarcating their maritime borders as invalid.

Turkey has raised tensions in the region by recently sending a warship-escorted research vessel to look for gas deposits in the area and signing its own maritime accord with the Turkish Cypriots.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Japan's exports fall for first time in 3 months

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's exports fell for the first time in three months in October, eroded by a strong yen and a sputtering global economy. Exports declined 3.7 percent from a year earlier to 5.51 trillion yen (\$71.7 billion), the finance ministry said Monday. Shipments to key markets such as China, North America and the European Union weakened. The world's No. 3 economy relies heavily on overseas demand to drive growth. The slowdown sug-

gests that its recovery from the March 11 tsunami and earthquake may be fading in the face of global headwinds.

Oil below \$98 after pessimistic China comment

SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered below \$98 a barrel Monday in Asia after a Chinese leader said a long global recession is certain. Benchmark crude for December delivery was up 10 cents at \$97.51 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New

York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.41 to settle at \$97.41 in New York on Friday. Brent crude for January delivery was up 12 cents at \$107.68 a barrel on the ICE Futures Exchange in London.

Singapore predicts sharp economic slowdown in 2012

SINGAPORE (AP)—Singapore warned Monday that its economy will likely suffer a sharp slowdown next year as export demand from developed countries wanes. Gross

domestic product growth will probably drop to between 1 percent and 3 percent in 2012 from 5 percent this year, the Trade and Industry Ministry said. "Singapore's externally oriented sectors such as electronics and wholesale trade will continue to perform poorly," the ministry said in a statement. "Although resilient domestic demand in emerging Asia will provide some support to global demand, it will not fully mitigate the effects of an economic slowdown in the advanced economies."

Nation

Officers in pepper spray incident placed on leave

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—A California university placed two of its police officers on administrative leave Sunday because of their involvement in the pepper spraying of passively sitting protesters, while the school's chancellor accelerated a task force's investigation into the incident amid calls for her resignation.

The president of the 10-campus University of California system also weighed in on the growing fallout from Friday's incident at UC Davis, saying that he is "appalled" at images of students being doused with pepper spray and plans a far-reaching, urgent assessment of

law enforcement procedures on all campuses.

"I implore students who wish to demonstrate to do so in a peaceful and lawful fashion. I expect campus authorities to honor that right," UC President Mark G. Yudof said. All 10 chancellors would convene soon for a discussion "about how to ensure proportional law enforcement response to non-violent protest," he said.

Officials at UC Davis refused to identify the two officers who were placed on administrative leave but one was a veteran of many years on the force and other "fairly new" to the department, the school's Police Chief



In this Friday, Nov. 18, 2011, photo occupy protester David Buscho is helped after being pepper sprayed by campus police while blocking their exit from the school's Quad Friday in Davis, Calif.

A day of protests

Some of the U.S. cities where events are planned on Nov. 17 for a national day of action by Occupy Wall Street protesters joined by unions and liberal groups to call for more jobs and better economic conditions:



Chronology of the Occupy movement

July 13 Canadian anti-consumerist magazine Adbusters issues a call to occupy Wall Street

Aug. 30 Anonymous, a hacktivist group, releases video on the Internet in support of occupation

Sept. 17 Nearly 1,000 people begin occupation of Zuccotti Park in New York's financial district

Oct. 1 More than 700 protesters arrested for marching across the Brooklyn Bridge, blocking traffic

Source: American Dream Movement, Mother Jones

Oct. 15 Global Day of Action; protests in more than 80 countries; occupations spread

Oct. 21 About 100 occupiers removed by police from tents in Melbourne, Australia; later, camps in Oakland, Calif., Boston, Atlanta, elsewhere are broken up by police

Nov. 16 New York City police in riot gear shut down encampment, 200 are arrested; occupiers vow to keep fighting against economic inequality

Graphic: Judy Treible

© 2011 MCT

Fire crews focusing on hot spots in Reno fire

RENO, Nev. (AP)—Austin and Sarah Hardage's home is burned to its foundations—the sad aftermath of an early-morning conflagration that raged through an area of southwest Reno.

But in a twist that played out time and time again across the 2,000-acre fire, neighboring houses on either side were untouched by flames.

"It's just amazing—Murphy's Law," Austin Hardage said Saturday afternoon. "It didn't even touch either house on either side. It doesn't make any sense." Their home is among the 32 that were destroyed by the unusual, out-of-season blaze that spread by gale force winds Friday and ripped through the Sierra foothills.

The fire was 95 percent contained by midday Sunday, and fire crews from throughout the region on Sunday were focus-

ing on a few lingering hot spots, Sierra Fire Protection District Mike Brown said. They were also repairing areas where vegetation was burned and hillsides damaged by bulldozers in an effort to prevent mudslides.

Officials are also cautioning people to be wary of scam artists posing as contractors offering inexpensive repairs. Washoe County Sheriff's spokesman Armando Avina said the scammers "prey on victims of tragedy" and usually ask for money upfront.

Gov. Brian Sandoval was among a number of leaders who opined on Saturday that it was a miracle that scores more homes weren't lost. There are about 4,000 homes in the area.

"When you see something like that, you can't help but be struck by the awesome and random power of nature," Sandoval said about the blackened

path of the fire that snaked along the edge of the foothills.

At times, the fire was moving 20 to 30 miles per hour and embers were jumping more than a mile, said Reno Fire Chief Mike Hernandez.

Although no official cause has been determined, Hernandez said all signs point to arcing power lines.

"The fire was much like a locomotive. It roared down the mountains and then ran down along the foothills," Hernandez said.

Many families "had to leave in the middle of the night with very, very limited possessions and they are coming back to devastation, to nothing," he said. "So our hearts and prayers go out to those families."

Austin Hardage explained how they awoke to a smoky, orange glow through the windows about 2 a.m. Friday.

Annette Spicuzza told The Associated Press. She would not elaborate further because of the pending probe.

Videos posted online of the incident clearly show one riot-gear clad officer dousing the line of protesters with spray as they sit in a line with their arms intertwined. Spicuzza told the AP that the second officer was identified during an intense review of several videos.

"We really wanted to be diligent in our research, and during our viewing of multiple videos we discovered the second officer," Spicuzza said. "This is the right thing to do."

Both officers were trained in the use of pepper spray as department policy dictates, and both had been sprayed with it themselves during training, the chief noted.

Meanwhile, UC Davis Chancellor Linda Katehi said she has been inundated with reaction from alumni, students and faculty.

"I spoke with students this weekend and I feel their outrage," Katehi said in a statement Sunday.

Katehi also set a 30-day dead-

'Al-Qaida sympathizer' accused of NYC bomb plots

NEW YORK (AP)—An "al-Qaida sympathizer" accused of plotting to bomb police and post offices in New York City as well as U.S. troops returning home has been arrested on numerous terrorism-related charges.

Mayor Michael Bloomberg announced at a news conference Sunday the arrest of Jose Pimentel of Manhattan, "a 27-year-old al-Qaida sympathizer" who the mayor said was motivated by terrorist propaganda and resentment of U.S. troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said police had to move quickly to arrest Pimentel on Saturday because he was ready to carry out his plan.

"We had to act quickly yesterday because he was in fact put-

ting this bomb together. He was drilling holes and it would have been not appropriate for us to let him walk out the door with that bomb," Kelly said.

The police commissioner said Pimentel was energized and motivated to carry out his plan by the Sept. 30 killing of al-Qaida's U.S.-born cleric Anwar al-Awlaki.

"He decided to build the bomb August of this year, but clearly he jacked up his speed after the elimination of al-Awlaki," Kelly said.

Ten years after 9/11, New York remains a prime terrorism target. Bloomberg said at least 13 terrorist plots have targeted the city since the Sept. 11 attacks. No attack has been successful. Pakistani immigrant

line for her school's task force investigating the incident to issue its report. The task force, composed of students, staff and faculty, will be chosen this week. She earlier had set a 90-day timetable.

She also plans to meet with demonstrators Monday at their general assembly, said her spokeswoman, Claudia Morain.

On Saturday, the UC Davis faculty association called for Katehi's resignation, saying in a letter there had been a "gross failure of leadership." Katehi has resisted calls for her to quit.

"I am deeply saddened that this happened on our campus, and as chancellor, I take full responsibility for the incident," Katehi said Sunday. "However, I pledge to take the actions needed to ensure that this does not happen again. I feel very sorry for the harm our students were subjected to and I vow to work tirelessly to make the campus a more welcoming and safe place."

Faisal Shahzad is serving a life sentence for trying to detonate a car bomb in Times Square in May 2010.

Pimentel, a U.S. citizen originally from the Dominican Republic, Pimentel was "plotting to bomb police patrol cars and also postal facilities as well as targeted members of our armed services returning from abroad," Bloomberg said Sunday.

He was under surveillance by New York police for at least a year who were working with a confidential informant and was in the process of building a bomb; no injury to anyone or damage to property is alleged, Kelly said. In addition, authorities have no evidence that Pimentel was working with anyone else, the mayor said.

ACROSS THE NATION

Attorney: Truck in Yale tailgating death faulty

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP)—A rented U-Haul that struck and killed a Massachusetts tailgater at a Yale-Harvard football game malfunctioned as a Yale undergraduate drove the vehicle into a crowded parking lot, the student's attorney said Sunday. William Dow, representing Yale student Brendan Ross, said Saturday's collision was a "tragic accident that appears to be the result of a vehicle malfunction." He did not elaborate and said Ross would not be speaking publicly about what happened. But Ross and his family wanted to express their condolences to the three people who were hit by the truck, Dow said, including 30-year-old Nancy Barry of Salem, Mass., who was killed.

Police: Fake doc injected cement in woman's rear

MIAMI (AP)—A woman who wanted to work at a nightclub started searching for someone who could perform plastic surgery at a cheap price to give her a curvier body. Police say what she found was a woman posing as a doctor who filled

her buttocks with cement, mineral oil and flat-tire sealant. The suspect—who police say was born a man and identifies as a woman—apparently performed the surgery on herself, and investigators say she may have victimized others. Oneal Ron Morris, 30, was arrested Friday after a year on the lam and has been charged with practicing medicine without a license with serious bodily injury.

3 missing Boy Scouts found safe in NC mountains

BREVARD, N.C. (AP)—Authorities say three Boy Scouts who were separated from their troop during a mountain hike did exactly what scouts are told to do if they get lost: They pitched a tent, stayed warm in sleeping bags and set out in the morning to find their rescuers. David Orr is deputy chief with the Transylvania County Rescue Service in North Carolina. He says a helicopter pilot spotted the boys waving Sunday morning during its first pass over the mountains north of Brevard. The boys, who were with a troop from the Charlotte area, were fine and didn't need medical help before they were reunited with their parents.

Asia

Calm in Philippines after ex-president's arrest

JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS

It's business as usual in the Philippines, with no army unrest or fears of massive street protests despite the dramatic arrest of former President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and a looming legal battle by her lawyers to seek her release, officials said Sunday.

Backers of the ailing Arroyo, who was arrested at a Manila hospital Friday for alleged election tampering, have accused President Benigno Aquino III's administration of filing the criminal complaint "with indecent haste" to prevent her from leaving the country. Arroyo, 64, had earlier obtained Supreme Court approval to go abroad for medical treatment.

Arroyo, who won a seat in the House of Representatives after her stormy nine-year presidency ended last year, once had strong ties to a group of loyal army generals who shielded her from four failed coup attempts sparked by a series of corruption scandals. All have since retired.

She also faced down a number of impeachment attempts while steadfastly denying any wrongdoing.

Budget Secretary Florencio Abad, an Aquino political adviser, said the relative calm accompanying Arroyo's arrest underscored her low popularity.

While there was no public grumbling in the military, Defense Secretary Voltaire Gazmin said he checked just the same with senior commanders, who reported nothing unusual. "I checked on the service com-

manders and asked them 'how are our people?' and was told, 'business as usual sir.'"

Gazmin said that while troops should not dabble in politics, he ordered commanders to explain recent developments concerning Arroyo to soldiers so they would not be misled by partisan groups that might seek the military's backing.

The military has a long history of coup attempts, although none has been successful.

Interior Secretary Jesse Robredo, who oversees the national police, said he was not ruling out possible pro-Arroyo rallies as her lawyers fight her arrest on the nonbailable charge of election sabotage.

But he said he was surprised that no pro-Arroyo rallies were staged last week. Instead, left-wing groups took to the streets to welcome her arrest and criticize the government for the delay in her indictment. Currently, there is no need to raise security alert levels, Robredo said.

"In any transition from the old to the new, you usually can't expect a lack of tensions," Robredo told The Associated Press. "If there is something that provides stability now, it's the people."

Cellphone messages last week called on Arroyo followers to gather at the historic EDSA pro-democracy shrine, where "people power" revolts against ex-presidents Ferdinand Marcos and Joseph Estrada erupted, but nobody turned up, he said.

Arroyo lawyer Ferdinand Topacio said her followers wanted to gather at the hospi-



In this Nov. 8, 2011 file photo, former Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo, wearing a head and neck brace, poses following an interview with a local reporter at her residence in suburban Quezon city, northeast of Manila, Philippines.

tal to show support, but were told to just pray for her health and send letters to officials and newspapers claiming political persecution of her.

"She was once a president. She's not without support," Topacio told reporters Sunday outside the hospital.

Aquino has given instructions to treat Arroyo "with respect as a former president who remains innocent until proven guilty," Robredo said. He said only four police officers are guarding her 16th-floor hospital suite, where she was fingerprinted and photographed by police Friday.

Her arrest capped a day of legal drama in which the Supreme Court, consisting mostly of justices appointed by Arroyo, upheld her right to travel abroad but a lower court accepted the formal charges against her. The government rushed the case in court, saying Arroyo may be trying to evade justice because of her plan to seek medical treatment abroad.

Topacio said he will petition the Supreme Court on Monday to suspend the arrest warrant. He earlier said the government filed the charges with "indecent

haste" and the quickness of the arrest was a "minor miracle" in the notoriously slow Philippine judicial system.

"We're preparing countercharges" for violations of Arroyo's basic rights, Topacio said Sunday.

Aquino, the son of pro-democracy icons, was overwhelmingly elected last year on promises to rid the Philippines of pervasive corruption and has said he wants to start with Arroyo.

The election sabotage charge carries a maximum penalty of 40 years in prison and stems from allegations Arroyo conspired to tamper with the results of 2007 congressional polls to favor her candidates.

She was accused of having direct knowledge of massive cheating in an autonomous Muslim region in the southern Philippines, the country's poorest and notoriously corrupt region.

More than a dozen complaints against Arroyo, including alleged plunder, are being investigated by the Justice Department and the Ombudsman, which looks into corruption cases involving officials, Aquino adviser Ronald Llamas said.

Hundreds of Afghans protest long-term pact with US

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—More than 1,000 university students blocked a main highway in eastern Afghanistan on Sunday to protest any agreement that would allow U.S. troops to remain in the country after a planned transfer of authority in 2014.

An assembly of more than 2,000 tribal elders and dignitaries known as a loya jirga over the weekend endorsed negotiating a security pact with Washington, though they also backed a series of conditions proposed by Afghan President Hamid Karzai including the end of night raids by international troops and complete Afghan control over detainees.

On Sunday, the protesters in Jalalabad city denounced any agreement that would keep U.S. troops in the country, blocking the road to Kabul and shouting "Death to America. Death to Karzai."

Both the resolution and the protests reflect the tension in Afghanistan between a desire for real sovereignty and the need to bolster the relatively weak government against a still-strong Taliban insurgency.

The idea of the proposed security agreement is to keep a U.S. military presence in Afghanistan past 2014, when most international forces are to have left. Afghan and U.S. officials envision a force of several thousand U.S. troops, who would train Afghan forces and

help with counterterrorism operations. The pact would outline the legal status of that force in Afghanistan, as well as the rules under which it would operate and where it would be based.

The jirga's resolution carries no legal weight, but could bolster Karzai's negotiating position with the United States

during difficult talks under way to craft what Washington is calling a Strategic Partnership Document.

For its part, the Taliban condemned the recent meeting of elders on Sunday, saying that they were puppets of the Afghan government and therefore also puppets of the NATO and

U.S. forces it sees as occupiers.

"They are acting like servants of the invaders of our country by issuing this resolution," Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said in a statement. He repeated the Taliban position that the only acceptable solution is for international forces to leave the country.

'Killing fields' victims await Khmer Rouge trial

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP)—Three top Khmer Rouge leaders accused of orchestrating Cambodia's "killing fields" face a court Monday as a U.N.-backed tribunal begins their trials more than three decades after some of the 20th century's worst atrocities.

Survivors of the regime held a remembrance ceremony outside Phnom Penh on Sunday. Relatives of the victims wept as they chanted and burned incense near a glass case filled with skulls at Choeung Ek Genocide Center, a memorial built in a field where bones still jut out from the ground, remnants of the Khmer Rouge mass executions.

The emotional ceremony was held to allow Cambodians an opportunity to share their concerns and remember loved ones ahead of the trials of three of the Khmer Rouge's surviving inner circle—all now in their 80s—on charges including crimes against humanity,

genocide and torture in connection with the Khmer Rouge's 1975-79 reign of terror.

An estimated 1.7 million people died of execution, starvation, exhaustion or lack of medical care as a result of the Khmer Rouge's radical policies, which essentially turned all of Cambodia into a forced labor camp as the movement attempted to create a pure agrarian socialist society. Intellectuals, entrepreneurs and anyone considered were imprisoned, tortured and often executed.

"I want to remind the victims and ask them to push this trial to find justice for those who were killed by the Khmer Rouges regime," 80-year-old Chum Mey, one of the only two survivors from the notorious S-21 prison, said at Sunday's ceremony.

Tribunal spokesman Huy Vannak called the proceedings beginning Monday "the most important trial in the world"

because of the seniority of those involved.

"It sends a message that the trial, which survivors have been waiting more than three decades for, finally begins," he said.

The defendants are 85-year-old Nuon Chea, the Khmer Rouge's chief ideologist and the No. 2 leader behind the late Pol Pot; 80-year-old Khieu Samphan, an ex-head of state; and 86-year-old Ieng Sary, the former foreign minister.

A fourth defendant, 79-year-old Ieng Thirith, was ruled unfit to stand trial last week because she has Alzheimer's disease. She is Ieng Sary's wife and served as the regime's minister for social affairs.

The regime's supreme leader, Pol Pot, died in 1998 in Cambodia's jungles while a prisoner of his own comrades, who after being toppled from power fought a guerrilla war that did not fully end in the late 1990s.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Death toll from Thailand's floods tops 600

BANGKOK (AP)—The death toll from Thailand's worst flooding in more than half a century has passed 600. The floods began in late July, fed by heavy monsoon rains and a series of tropical storms. The floodwaters swamped entire towns as they moved south through the country's central heartland to Bangkok and the Gulf of Thailand. More than two-thirds of the country's 77 provinces have been flooded during the four-month-long crisis. The government said Sunday that the death toll has reached 602, the majority from drowning.

13 eunuchs killed in fire in India

NEW DELHI (AP)—A fire tore through a makeshift tent at a gathering of thousands of eunuchs in the Indian capital on Sunday, killing 13 people and injuring at least 33 others, police said. Emergency workers said the blaze was most likely caused by an electrical short and quickly spread through the tent, which was about 100 feet (30 meters) long. The tragedy struck during a gathering of about 5,000 eunuchs for a prayer ceremony and feast held once every five years, said Shapo, an organizer of the event at a fairground in the Nandnagary neighborhood of east Delhi. Shapo, like many eunuchs, uses only one name.

Australian gets \$100,000 after shampoo found clean

DARWIN, Australia (AP)—Australian authorities have compensated a Darwin man \$100,000 after they wrongly accused him of trying to smuggle drugs into the country in bottles of shampoo. Neil Parry spent three days in jail last year after he was arrested at Darwin Airport and accused of trafficking liquid ecstasy. His boat and two of his friends' houses were also searched. But it turned out that his two bottles of Pantene Pro-V shampoo and conditioner were exactly what the label said.

World

Grenade blasts bring violence to Syrian capital

BEIRUT (AP)—Rocket-propelled grenades struck the headquarters of Syria's ruling party Sunday, bringing the violence that has engulfed much of the country to the heart of its capital for the first time, activists said.

The attack on the building in Syria's capital of Damascus apparently caused no damage or casualties. But if true, it would mark a significant shift in the eight-month uprising against President Bashar Assad. Until now, the capital has remained relatively untouched.

The pre-dawn attack awoke many Syrians who reported hearing two loud blasts, but details could not be confirmed. The foreign minister denied an attack had taken place, and Syrian television broadcast footage of the building looking undamaged.

The Free Syrian Army, a group of military defectors, claimed responsibility, highlighting the growing militarization of the revolt following months of largely peaceful protests.

"This is an escalation that would signal a new phase in the Syrian uprising," said Thabet Salem, a Damascus-based analyst. "It gives a new dimension to the whole situation, which had been so far restricted to (government) action, and reaction from the opposition," he said.

Syria has placed severe restrictions on the work of journalists, making it extremely difficult to confirm events.

The country's embattled but defiant president vowed to pursue his bloody crackdown on dissent, saying it was his "duty" as president to crush the militants he blames for the unrest.

Syria's uprising against Assad, although largely peaceful, has grown more

violent in recent weeks as frustrated protesters realize the limits of peaceful action. Army dissidents who sided with the protests have also grown bolder, fighting back against regime forces and even attacking military bases and raising fears of a civil war.

Foreign Minister Walid al-

Moallem dismissed the idea of civil war, saying such talk was "wishful thinking" by the West.

The British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said unknown gunmen on motorcycles threw first a stun grenade and then fired RPGs at the Baath party headquarters, hitting the outside wall of the building.

Two other grenades missed the target, it said.

Omar Idilbi, spokesman of the Local Coordination Committees' activist network, also said the perpetrators were masked men on motorcycles. But he cast doubt on the claim of responsibility by the Free Syrian Army, saying the target

was suspicious. "The Baath party headquarters is not a military or security base to be attacked by the FSA," he said.

The foreign minister said reports of an attack were "absolutely baseless." But at a news

conference, he thanked a Syrian journalist for clarifying that the explosions heard in the area were the result of a stun grenade, indirectly acknowledging that some kind of attack had taken place.

Libya insists Gadhafi's son to be tried at home

ZINTAN, Libya (AP)—Libya's new leaders said Sunday they will try Moammar Gadhafi's son at home and not hand him over to the International Criminal Court where he's charged with crimes against humanity. The government also announced the capture of the toppled regime's intelligence minister, who is also wanted by the court.

In one of several emerging complications, however, the former rebel faction that captured Seif al-Islam Gadhafi a day earlier is refusing to deliver him to national authorities in Tripoli, raising concern over whether he will get a proper trial and demonstrating the interim leaders' weak hold over their fractured nation.

In the capital, Information Minister Mahmoud Shammam said ex-Intelligence Minister Abdullah al-Senoussi was captured alive on Sunday by revolutionary fighters from a southern region called Fazan, not far from where Gadhafi's son was seized on Saturday while trying to flee to neighboring Niger.

Fighters tracking al-Senoussi for two days caught up with him at his sister's house in Deerat al-Shati, about 40 miles (70 kilo-

meters) south of the desert city of Sebha, said fighter Abdullah al-Sughayer. There were few other immediate details on his capture, and it was not clear whether his captors would also resist turning him over to Tripoli.

Though they are wanted by the International Criminal Court in The Hague, Netherlands, Libya will likely seek to try both men at home.

Speaking earlier in the day, before al-Senoussi's capture, the information minister said Seif al-Islam, the ousted Libyan leader's one-time heir apparent, must be tried in Libya even though the country's new leaders have yet to establish a court system.

"It is only fair for the Libyan people that he is tried here. ... Seif al-Islam committed crimes against the Libyan people," Shammam told The Associated Press.

"The ICC is just a secondary court, and the people of Libya will not allow Seif al-Islam to be tried outside," Shammam said.

The ICC indicted the two men along with Gadhafi in June for unleashing a campaign of murder and torture to suppress the uprising against the Gadhafi regime that broke out in mid-February.



Gadhafi

Noose of global opinion tightens around Syria

The government of President Bashar Assad is struggling to hold power in the face of global criticism, much of it coming from former Arab allies who say the regime has lost legitimacy by killing its own people. In January, Assad said his country was immune to the Arab Spring uprisings because he is in tune with his people's needs.



Spain tilts to the right as voters oust Socialists

MADRID (AP)—Spain's center-right conservatives swept convincingly into power and into an economic hot seat Sunday as voters enduring 21.5 percent unemployment dumped the ruling Socialist government—the third time in as many weeks that Europe's debt crisis has toppled an administration.

The vote in the country with the eurozone's highest jobless rate and a center-stage spot in Europe's debt crisis saga came as the continent's troubles cause financial havoc across the globe. And the victory for Spain's Popular Party came just after financially troubled Greece and Italy

saw their governments fall.

As thousands of cheering supporters waved red-and-yellow Spanish flags and blue-and-white Popular Party banners on a Madrid avenue outside party headquarters, future prime minister Mariano Rajoy called for Spaniards of all political stripes to work together to overcome the crisis—but sounded a somber note of warning for a country with an economy that has stalled.

"It is no secret to anyone that we are going to rule in the most delicate circumstances Spain has faced in 30 years," he said. "For me, there will be no en-

emies but unemployment, the deficit, excessive debt, economic stagnation and anything else that keeps our country in these critical circumstances."

But the 56-year old Rajoy gave no hints of how he will tackle Spain's unemployment nightmare—with a much higher rate for young adults. So far, Rajoy has only promised tax cuts for small- and medium-size companies that make up more than 90 percent of all firms in Spain.

Rajoy faces the towering task of restoring investor confidence and lowering Spain's soaring borrowing costs with deficit-reducing measures, while preventing

an already moribund economy from heading into a double-dip recession. The country only just climbed out of one last year that was prompted by the bursting of a real estate bubble.

With 99 percent of the vote counted, the Popular Party had won 186 seats compared to 154 in the last legislature. The Socialists plummeted from 169 seats to 110, their worst performance ever.

It was a resounding mandate that gave the party, known as the PP, an absolute parliamentary majority—and far more seats than the 176 it needed for this cushion in the lower chamber of Parliament, Spain's most important.

WORLD BRIEFS

Witnesses: Ethiopian troops enter Somali town

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—A convoy of Ethiopian troops entered Somalia on Sunday, residents said, in a possible attempt to open a third front against al-Qaida-linked Somali insurgents. The incursion into the central town of Guriel appears to be the largest movement of Ethiopian troops into Somalia since an unpopular Ethiopian invasion nearly five years ago. The al-Shabab insurgents are already fighting an African Union force in the Somali capital and Kenyan troops in the south, where al-Shabab said it attacked a Kenyan warship on Sunday. The arrival of the Ethiopians would stretch al-Shabab further but could also hand it a propaganda victory if the insurgents are able to capitalize on the memories of Ethiopia's previous unpopular invasion.

Police burn protest tents to clear Cairo's Tahrir

CAIRO (AP)—Egyptian soldiers and police set fire to protest tents in Cairo's Tahrir Square and fired tear gas and rubber bullets in a major assault Sunday to drive out thousands demanding that the military rulers quickly transfer power to a civilian government. At least 11 protesters were killed and hundreds were injured. It was the second day of clashes marking a sharp escalation of tensions on Egypt's streets a week before the first elections since the ouster of longtime authoritarian leader Hosni Mubarak in February. The military took over the country, promising a swift transition to civilian rule. But the pro-democracy protesters who led the uprising have grown increasingly angry with the ruling generals, and suspect they are trying to cling to power even after an elected parliament is seated and a new president is voted in.

Focus

NEW YORK (AP)—Walk into Pure Food and Wine on Manhattan's chic Irving Place and out back to its spacious, luxurious garden, and you might spot actress Katie Holmes. Or Alec Baldwin and his new girlfriend, whom he met at the restaurant.

Or football player Tom Brady. Or radio host Howard Stern. Or Bill Clinton and daughter Chelsea, who've made a number of visits together, enjoying the sweet corn and cashew tamales with portabella or a mint sundae for dessert. Or any number of Wall Street moguls.

It could be any trendy New York eatery, but Pure serves only vegan and raw food, with nary an egg nor an oven in sight. Its upscale clientele is a mix of vegans, vegetarians and just plain foodies, but clearly a sign of how the image of veganism has changed in recent years.

Call them the big-time vegans: The celebrity standard-bearers for a vegan lifestyle aren't just wispy young actresses. They include talk-show host Ellen DeGeneres, along with wife Portia de Rossi. (Or Oprah Winfrey, who isn't vegan but led her staff on a public 21-day vegan cleanse.) Or men like Ozzy Osbourne and Russell Brand, who in recent weeks both declared themselves vegans. Athletes like Carl Lewis and Mike Tyson. Even NFL player Tony Gonzalez, tight end for the Atlanta Falcons and 245-plus pounds, attributes his longevity to a largely vegan diet.

And then there are the moguls, like billionaire publisher, real estate developer and recent avowed vegan Mort Zuckerman, and Steve Wynn, the Las Vegas casino magnate, who's hired a vegan chef and put vegan options in his resort restaurants. Biz Stone, the co-founder of Twitter, also has spoken of his veganism.

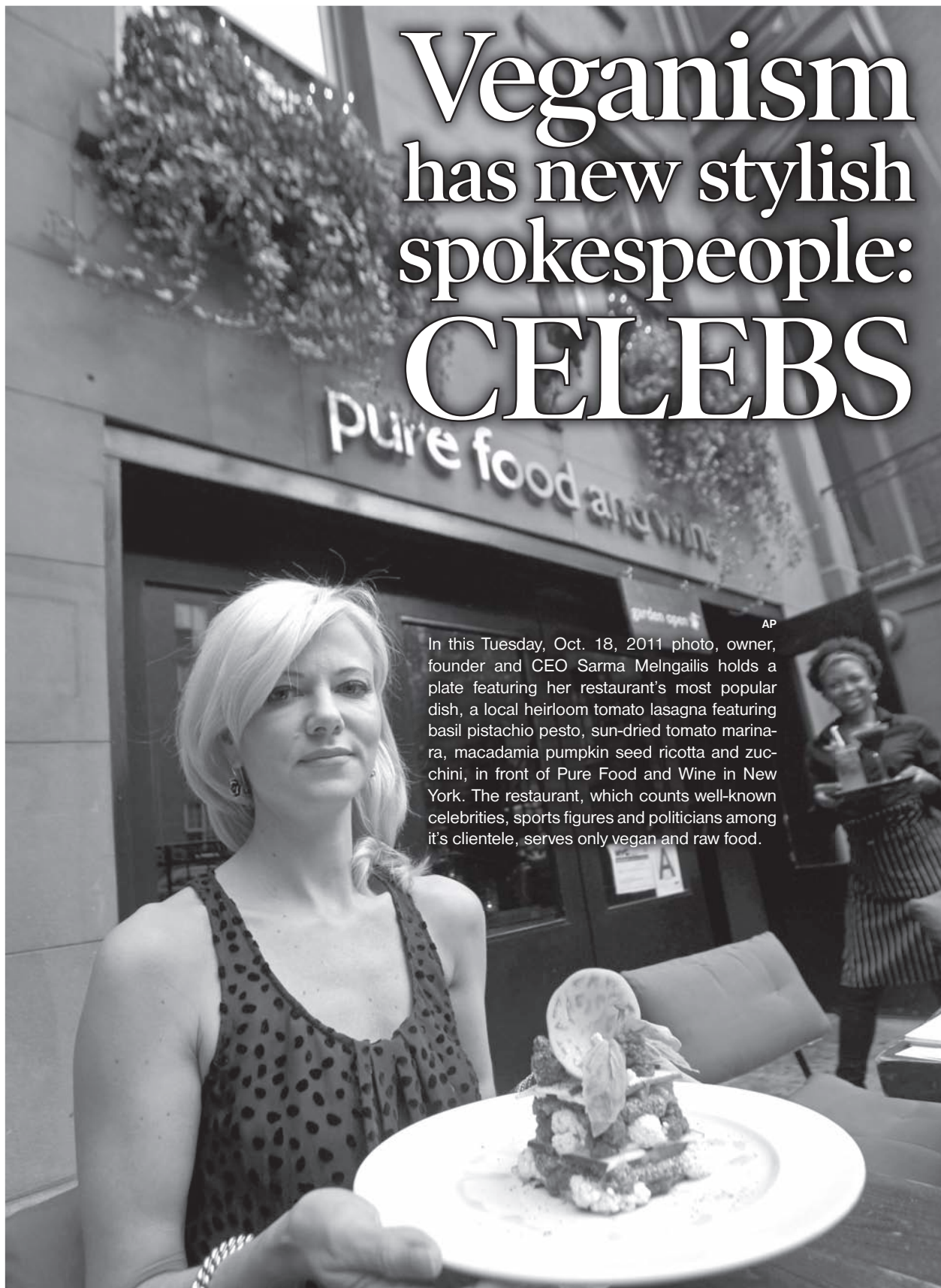
Of all the high-profile vegans, though, Clinton is the biggest "catch." Advocates were thrilled and stunned when he talked about it on CNN last year, telling host Wolf Blitzer that his impressive 24-pound weight loss was due to a largely plant-based diet—a regime he believes will prolong his life.

"I fell off my chair when I heard him talking about his almond milk smoothie," says prominent vegan chef and cookbook author Tal Ronnen, who has worked with celebrities like Winfrey and DeGeneres, and is a collaborating chef for Wynn's two Las Vegas resorts. "Someone like Bill Clinton who grew up on southern comfort food talking about his vegan diet—it shows how things are changing."

The question is, of course, how much those changes have influenced ordinary Americans. "All the exposure is absolutely having an influence," says advocate Joseph Connelly, editor and publisher of VegNews. "People can pronounce the word 'vegan' now! Five, 10 years ago they couldn't. It's nothing but positive."

But what about hard numbers? The Vegetarian Resource Group, a nonprofit education and advocacy group, reports that its polling on the issue indicates there's been a marked increase over the last decade in veganism in America and that it's currently either remaining steady or, more likely, slowly rising.

The group says its latest figures show that about 5 percent of American adults are vegetarians—saying they never eat meat, fish, seafood or poultry—and that half of these vegetarians are also vegan, meaning they don't eat dairy or eggs, either. (Strict vegans also don't eat honey.)



In this Tuesday, Oct. 18, 2011 photo, owner, founder and CEO Sarma Melngailis holds a plate featuring her restaurant's most popular dish, a local heirloom tomato lasagna featuring basil pistachio pesto, sun-dried tomato marinara, macadamia pumpkin seed ricotta and zucchini, in front of Pure Food and Wine in New York. The restaurant, which counts well-known celebrities, sports figures and politicians among its clientele, serves only vegan and raw food.

Veganism has new stylish spokespeople: CELEBS

In addition, the proportion of vegans to vegetarians seems to be going up, says Charles Stahler, co-director of the group.

"It seems to all add up," Stahler says. "It comes from different angles—the public campaigns of animal rights groups, the emergence of the health rationale, the environmental movement." There is also the issue of supply—more vegan options available in supermarkets and restaurants all the time.

"There are a lot of ways that people come to it," says Ronnen, the vegan chef, who catered DeGeneres and de Rossi's wedding and supervised Winfrey's cleanse. "But I've been doing this a long time and I have never seen such a shift. It's no longer seen as a diet of hummus and alfalfa sprouts on some really dry healthy bread, he says. "It's not hippies preaching peace

and love. Now, you have a crossover of mainstream business people and good-looking celebrities."

De Rossi certainly falls into that latter category. The actress has written about her struggles with eating disorders. Now, she says, she wants people to know about the vegan lifestyle she's

adopted with DeGeneres, her wife of three years, one they've chosen out of concern for animal welfare.

In an interview, de Rossi said she had been essentially vegan when she met DeGeneres, who was a fan of

meat, especially burgers. De Rossi went back to meat, but later, together, they became vegans.

"It took a couple years, but we realized we didn't feel comfortable ethically eating meat," de Rossi says. "For animal lovers, something kind of clicks. But it doesn't really matter how you get to it, as long as you believe in why you chose a vegan diet."

De Rossi is encouraged that prominent figures like Wynn and Clinton are throwing their weight—even 24 pounds less of it, in Clinton's case—behind veganism.

"I think men in particular are taking note of Steve Wynn and Bill Clinton," she says. "They're really powerful men that people want to emulate." As for entertainment figures like herself, "we can do our part too," the actress says. "The more we can demystify the word

'vegan,' the better." She notes that all cooking segments on DeGeneres' show are vegan.

But what about the cost argument—that shifting to a vegan diet is expensive and time-consuming, and often simply untenable for average Americans who, unlike stars and billionaire moguls, don't have their own private chefs?

"I get some of that," acknowledges de Rossi. "But look at the diet. Foods like beans and rice are staple foods in so many cultures. And there's so much you can buy in supermarkets now. Being vegan is not an exclusive thing. I think for people to say, 'Well, it's fine for you'—that's kind of an excuse."

De Rossi and DeGeneres, in fact, are becoming restaurateurs: They've invested in a vegan chain, The Veggie Grill, and may be investing in a stand-alone vegan restaurant as well, according to a spokesman.

They could probably take advice from Sarma Melngailis, owner of Pure, who co-founded it in the summer of 2004.

"It's all so much more mainstream now than seven years ago," Melngailis says. "We've moved away from that crunchy image. You won't see that here."

What you will see are diners eating a raw lasagna made with zucchini, heirloom tomatoes and macadamia pumpkin seed ricotta, or squash blossoms filled with a spiced cashew "cheese"—both dishes bearing a high-end \$24 price tag. Or sipping cocktails made with fresh organic juices, like a mojito with mint, lime juice and sake.

Melngailis, who also owns the One Lucky Duck retail store and online business, specializing in vegan snacks, feels that the more adaptable veganism is, essentially, the more people will accept it.

"A lot of people associate veganism with judgment, and I don't like that," she says. "Our goal is to encourage a shift. It's not black and white. It's gray."

The role of a (mostly) vegan like Clinton is crucial, she says. "It legitimizes it a lot. I like to point it out all the time when people are skeptical about veganism—Clinton's a smart man."

The former president pleased advocates for veganism once again when he was asked recently, rather too bluntly in the view of some, whether it "sucked" to be vegan.

No, Clinton told Matt Lauer on NBC's "Today" show: "I'd like to have as many good days as possible, and this seems to be the best way to get it," he said.

That's not why Daelyn Fortney is a vegan. The mom from Greenville, S.C.—and editor of the vegan and vegetarian website ThisDishIsVeg—is focused on animal ethics. But she's delighted that people like the former president are giving veganism a fresh and powerful face.

"That's probably going to be the way it'll move to a lot more people," Fortney says. "It's always fantastic when a cause gets a name like that behind it."

But she adds a note of caution about the big-time vegans.

"I hope they stick with it!" Fortney says. "It could do damage on the other end if they don't."

A lot of people associate veganism with judgment, and I don't like that. Our goal is to encourage a shift. It's not black and white. It's gray.

Overdrive

2012 Audi A6 splendid at any speed

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

As I climbed behind the wheel of the redesigned 2012 Audi A6 in northern Virginia, I had visions of driving this German luxury sedan at outrageous speeds along the area's twisty roads. They are a driver's delight and a feast for the eyes. But what good is an autobahn cruiser when traffic moves slower than a hopped-up riding mower?

Well, for one thing, traffic doesn't always move this slowly. For another, your lawn tractor doesn't have air-conditioned leather seats; nor can it become a Wi-Fi hot spot. The 2012 Audi A6 does and can.

Now, if you're not an Audi aficionado, you may not be able to differentiate the 2012 A6 from the 2011 model. Its new looks are so evolutionary, you'll wonder what has changed. But look again.

The 2012 A6's front end takes on a mean, aggressive look, highlighted by full LED head lamps, an industry first. Its side panels are sculpted and more muscular.

While sporting a longer wheelbase than the old model, the new A6 is slightly shorter. In addition, the car uses aluminum in 20 percent of the car, including the suspension, hood and doors, to keep weight down.

Inside, you'll find an all-new interior and instrument panel that's shared with the new Audi A7. Interior quality is excellent. The leather, metal and wood trim have a clean, modern sensibility that feels upscale but not indulgent.

The heart of the interior is Audi's Multi Media Interface system, which controls media



MCT

The 2012 Audi A6's front end takes on a mean, aggressive look, highlighted by full LED head lamps, an industry first.

NUTS & BOLTS

Engine: Supercharged 3.0-liter DOHC V6
Wheelbase: 114.7 inches
Length: 193.9 inches
Weight: 4,045 pounds
Cargo space: 14.1 cubic feet
EPA rating (city/highway): 19/28 mpg
Fuel consumption: 22.3 mpg
Fuel type: Premium
Base price, base model: \$41,700
Base price, test model: \$49,900
As tested: \$61,530

and information. Part of the system appears on an 8-inch pop-up screen, and some is shown redundantly on a large screen in the instrument cluster. The main screen has the usual array of features: Bluetooth phone integration, GPS navigation and an audio system. But Audi equips the A6 with a couple of unique features.

One is Google Earth, whose images are overlaid with the GPS system's maps, so that finding your way in unfamiliar territory is easier. It's free for the first six months, after which there's a fee from T-Mobile.

The second is a touch pad that works with the mobile phone directory. If you need to look up a good friend whose name starts with the letter J, just write the letter J on the touchpad and the directory takes you there. When the screen shows the audio system, the touch pad reverts to touch-sensitive radio presets.

And get this: The car can be used as a Wi-Fi hot spot for all of your devices, so that passengers can use their iPads or other electronic gear to get work done.

Base A6 Premium models get a 10-speaker Audi audio system. SiriusXM satellite radio and Sirius Traffic are included free for the first 90 days. Traffic seems of little value on the weekends; there are no reports. So you'll get stuck in crawling traffic, as I did.

Other models' sedans get a 14-speaker, 630-watt Bose audio system. A 15-speaker, 1,300-watt Bang and Olufsen system is optional. In addition, there are two data card slots and a 60 GB hard drive.

As you might expect in a Ger-

man car, the seats are comfortably supportive. Upper-level models have standard heated seats; air-conditioned seats are optional. The chilled seats on our test car weren't as effective as those in some competing makes. Seat comfort was above average. Leg room is generous up front but tighter than you'd expect in back. Each seating position has its own headrest and climate control.

The 2012 A6 comes with two engines.

Base Premium models come with Volkswagen's ubiquitous 2.0-liter turbocharged four-cylinder engine, rated at 211 horsepower. With front-wheel drive and a continuously variable automatic transmission, it returns fuel economy of 25 mpg city, 33 mpg highway. This model is meant mainly as a price leader, and Audi doesn't expect to sell many.

For now, the volume model will be the 3.0T, which has a supercharged six-cylinder engine rated at 310 hp. This all-wheel-drive car comes with an eight-speed automatic transmission. It returned

gas mileage of 22.3 mpg.

One of the niceties of this sedan is the ability to control certain functions according to the driver's taste. The feature, called Audi Drive Select, allows for a choice in settings for the throttle, transmission, seat belt tensioner and power steering. Four modes are offered: comfort, auto, dynamic and individual.

The different modes do give the A6 a difference in feel. Choosing dynamic reveals this sled's inner athlete. It seems lighter on its feet than its German rivals, the BMW 5-Series and Mercedes-Benz E-Class. But it should; it weighs less than either of them. Meanwhile, comfort transforms the A6 into an easy-going cruiser. My advice? Leave it in automatic mode and let the car decide based on your mood and driving style.

Audi's Quattro system gives the A6 a planted feel, and even the worst downpours couldn't alleviate its tenacious grip. There's a bit more body lean in this car than you might expect while cornering, but this is a family sedan.

The A6's electric power steering has a light, artificial feel that Audi is only partially successful in alleviating. The better news is road noise: It's well suppressed.

Of course, safety is always a prime consideration when buying a car and the new A6 delivers. I appreciated the optional blind-spot monitoring system, which alerts you to vehicles in the A6's blind spot. But it was too sensitive, often picking up the presence of vehicles two lanes away.

Other safety options include lane assistance, which prevents you from unintentionally wandering out of your lane; adaptive cruise control, which allows you keep the car at a preset distance; and night vision, which shows an infrared image at night so you can avoid hitting unseen people or animals.

It all adds up a car that plays the technology card to the hilt, while supporting it with world-class design, fit and finish and substantial performance.

The A6 is a worthy competitor to the BMW 5-Series of Mercedes-Benz E-Class. If you're shopping either of those models, try an A6 as well. You'll be surprised.



When to put headlights out of their misery

By STEVEN COLE SMITH
THE ORLANDO SENTINEL

QUESTION: Our car is five years old. It appears the headlights are not as bright as they used to be. Should they be replaced on some schedule, even before they burn out?—Kel

ANSWER: First, make sure the reason the lights don't seem as bright isn't because plastic covers over the headlights have weathered. There are plenty of kits available at auto parts stores and big discount stores that help restore the clarity of the lenses, which lets more light pass through. Some use wax-type polish and a manual buffer pad, and some add buffers that require an electric drill. Also, do the lights brighten substantially when you rev the engine? If so, you may have an electrical issue.

Second, if you have newer HID (high-intensity discharge) bulbs—they have that bluish-white light, and mostly they come on premium cars—know that they are expensive and really don't lose intensity, so wait until they burn out or break. If you have conventional halogen bulbs, they aren't hard or expensive to replace on most vehicles, but they generally lose comparatively little of their illumination ability over time. If you are convinced they have, by all means replace them, but replace both sides, not just one. Use name brand bulbs.

Finally, if you'd like to change your halogen lights to modern HIDs, be aware that it's possible on some vehicles, but they require an expensive installation kit—they don't just plug in.

Q: Can I top off power steering fluid with automatic transmission fluid? My father told me they were the same thing.—T.E.

A: They are similar, and years ago, close enough. But in newer cars, use power steering fluid, unless the owner's manual specifically calls for automatic transmission fluid.

Steven Cole Smith is the automotive editor at the Orlando Sentinel in Florida. Send questions to scsmith@orlandosentinel.com.

IN CELEBRATION OF HER NEW LIFE

Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan

July 14, 1968 – November 18, 2011

This is to inform the relatives and friends of **Rosita Camacho Terlaje Pangelinan**, daughter of the late †Jose and †Regina Camacho Terlaje and wife of Mark Dave Sablan Pangelinan was called to her eternal rest on November 18, 2011 at the University of Washington Medical Center, Seattle, Washington.

Daily Mass is being offered at San Jose Church, Oleai at the following dates and times:

Monday, November 21, 2011	6:00AM
Tuesday, November 22, 2011	6:00AM
Wednesday, November 23, 2011	6:00PM
Thursday, November 24, 2011	7:00AM & 9:00AM
Friday, November 25, 2011	6:00AM
Saturday, November 26, 2011	6:00PM
Sunday, November 27, 2011	7:30AM & 9:00AM

Monday, November 28, 2011	6:00AM
Tuesday, November 29, 2011	6:00AM
Wednesday, November 30, 2011	6:00PM
Thursday, December 01, 2011	6:00AM
Friday, December 02, 2011	6:00AM
Saturday, December 03, 2011	6:00PM
Sunday, December 04, 2011	7:30AM & 9:00AM

Mass of Christian Burial will be announced at a later date.
I tinayuyut miyu yan I finaton miyu en sen agradesi.
Un dangkulu na Si Yu'us Ma'ase

Ginen as Mark, famagu'on-ña yan i familia

Life & Style

Taylor Swift wins three trophies at AMAs

By DERRIK J. LANG
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Taylor Swift was crowned artist of the year at the American Music Awards for a second time.

"This is so crazy!" the country superstar said after beat such contenders as Adele, Lady Gaga, and Katy Perry to capture all three awards that she was nominated for at Sunday's ceremony, including artist of the year, the show's highest accolade that she previously claimed in 2009.

"I ended up writing the record by myself, so the fact that you would honor it this way, you have no idea what this means to me," said Swift after winning the trophy for favorite country album for "Speak Now." She was also awarded the prize for favorite country female artist.

Nicki Minaj, the pink-loving hip-hop diva, won two awards Sunday. She kicked off the 39th annual fan-favorite ceremony by sporting a pair of speakers on her much-talked about posterior and was later honored as favorite rap/hip-hop artist, besting a group that included mentor Lil Wayne, and won favorite rap/hip-hop album for "Pink Friday."

"There's so much love in this room," beamed the pink-haired Minaj.

Adele had been the night's leading nominee with four nods, but didn't have much of a presence at the show: She was absent from the ceremony because she is recovering from recent throat surgery. Adele tied Swift with three awards: favorite pop/rock female artist, adult contemporary artist and pop/rock album for "21."

Other winners included Maroon 5 as favorite pop-rock band/duo/group, Blake Shelton as favorite country male artist, Lady Antebellum as favorite country band/duo/group, Beyonce as favorite soul/R&B female artist, Rihanna for favorite soul/R&B album for "Loud" and Hot Chelle Rae as new artist of the year.

The ceremony inside the Nokia Theatre in an unusually rainy Los Angeles was drenched with 17 musical performances.

Justin Bieber got in the holiday spirit among a forest of neon lights with "Under the Mistle-

WINNERS' LIST

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Complete list of winners at Sunday's 39th annual American Music Awards, presented at the Nokia Theatre:

- **Adult Contemporary Artist:** Adele
- **Alternative Rock Artist:** Foo Fighters
- **Contemporary Inspirational Artist:** Casting Crowns
- **Country Female Artist:** Taylor Swift
- **Country Male Artist:** Blake Shelton
- **Country Band, Duo or Group:** Lady Antebellum
- **Country Album:** Taylor Swift, "Speak Now"
- **Latin Music Artist:** Jennifer Lopez
- **Pop/Rock Female Artist:** Adele
- **Pop/Rock Male Artist:** Bruno Mars
- **Pop/Rock Band, Duo or Group:** Maroon 5
- **Pop/Rock Album:** Adele, "21"
- **Rap/Hip-Hop Artist:** Nicki Minaj
- **Rap/Hip-Hop Album:** Nicki Minaj, "Pink Friday"
- **Soul/R&B Female Artist:** Beyonce
- **Soul/R&B Male Artist:** Usher
- **Soul/R&B Album:** Rihanna, "Loud."
- **Artist of the Year:** Taylor Swift
- **New Artist of the Year:** Hot Chelle Rae



Taylor Swift accepts the award for artist of the year at the 39th Annual American Music Awards on Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011 in Los Angeles. AP

toe," and Kelly Clarkson, wearing a glittery red gown with her hair swept to the side, delivered a swinging rendition of her hit "Mr. Know It All" as back-up dancers dressed as 1930s-era photographers snapped the first-ever "American Idol" champion.

Jennifer Lopez and Marc Anthony shared custody of rapper Pitbull, who joined the former couple in a pair of separate performances. Lopez performed essentially a live version of a car commercial starring the "Idol" judge set to "Papi"—with the car onstage—before launching into her hit "On the Floor." Pitbull later returned to the stage and joined Anthony for "Rain Over Me."

Lopez expressed surprise when she won the favorite Latin music artist award.

"It's been up and down and just exciting and overwhelming and so many things," Lopez said of the last year.

Several artists delivered stripped-down performances: The Band Perry crooned an emotional "If I Die Young," a pink-haired Perry accompanied herself on guitar for "The One That Got Away" and a platinum-blond Chris Brown simply sang "All Back" before being joined by a troop of helmet-clad back-up dancers for a flashy interpretation of "Say It With Me."

There were collaborations, too. Lopez joined a glowing-in-the-dark will.i.am for his new single "Hard." Christina Aguilera dueted with Maroon 5 on their "Moves Like Jagger," and then Maroon 5 lead singer Adam Levine teamed with Gym Class Heroes for their hit "Stereo Hearts." Bieber joined LMFAO in animal-print pants for the show's finale, which ended with everyone on stage—including David Hasselhoff—stripping down to smiley-face underwear.

gathering in Caracas, joining about 2,000 Venezuelans, organizers said.

Participants had their bodies painted in bright hues from orange to lime green. Vines appeared to wind down the shoulders of one woman, and a man posed as a statue with his skin painted to look like marble.

"The body is a canvas with infinite possibilities," Venezuelan artist Ivan Hernandez Ro-

jas said. "I think it's fascinating that colors, clothing, makeup, masks, wigs, combs ... and accessories allow the human being to change from one identity to another."

The festival, which began Thursday and ended Sunday, included participants from various Latin American countries as well as others who traveled from the Japan, Luxembourg, Poland, South Africa, Australia,

OVERHEARD

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Overheard at the 39th annual American Music Awards, presented Sunday at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles:

■ "We've never won an American Music Award, and it's wonderful to be acknowledged for our music. It's very sharp, though, so we'll have to be careful around the house."—Maroon 5 frontman Adam Levine backstage on the pyramid-shaped AMA trophy.

■ "We just want to say thank you to the fans. It starts and ends with you and we just love you very, very much."—Hillary Scott of Lady Antebellum as she accepted the band's prize for favorite country band, duo or group.

■ "Just chase your dreams. I never thought this could be possible. Shout out to all the female rappers, past present and future."—Nicki Minaj, who beat out Lil Wayne, Kanye West and Jay-Z to win favorite hip-hop album for "Pink Friday."

■ "Heavy had a huge effect on all of us. He was inspiring and optimistic. He just always told us or gave us great advice. He always wanted us to do good. He was like a father figure for us."—Mary J. Blige backstage on Heavy D, who died unexpectedly earlier this month and whom Blige honored on stage with her performance.

■ "I just want to thank my family most of all, my beautiful babies, who just inspire me every day to be a better person."—Jennifer Lopez accepting the award for favorite Latin music artist.

■ "I think the two of us should just get on TV and let our hair fight each other."—Pompadour-ed presenter Robin Thicke backstage on fellow fluffy-haired singer, Bruno Mars, who was named favorite male pop/rock artist.

■ "This is like one of the craziest things that has ever happened to me."—Taylor Swift accepting the award for artist of the year.

Painted bodies transformed into art in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Artists used paint, ornaments and glitter to transform the human body into artwork at a festival in Venezuela, showing off designs that ranged from pure fantasy to indigenous myths.

The weekend's annual World Meeting of Body Art included body painting, tattoo art, performances and workshops. Fifty-two artists from 18 countries shared their creations at the

the United States and Austria, among other nations.

One presentation by Venezuelan David Aranguren and 11 other artists focused on the mythology of the country's Warao indigenous group, who live in the Orinoco River Delta. Actors' bodies were painted and adorned with leaves and feathers, and they played parts such as the wind and the "crocodile god."

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Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1				
Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday & Tuesday		4:15	7:15	
Wednesday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Thursday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart • Fantasy • Rated PG 13

Synopsis
In the highly anticipated next chapter of the blockbuster The Twilight Saga, the newfound married bliss of Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart) and vampire Edward Cullen (Robert Pattinson) is cut short when a series of betrayals and misfortunes threatens to destroy their world. After their wedding, Bella and Edward travel to Rio de Janeiro for their honeymoon, where they finally give in to their passions. Bella soon discovers she is pregnant, and during a nearly fatal childbirth, Edward finally fulfills her wish to become immortal.

Happy Feet Two				
Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday & Tuesday		4:00	7:00	
Wednesday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Thursday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams • Children's/family • Rated PG

Synopsis
The eagerly anticipated sequel to the Oscar-winning hit Happy Feet Two finds tap-dancing penguin Mumble (voice of Elijah Wood) and his pals using their smooth moves to save the penguin nation. Mumble and Gloria (voice of Pink) have started a family of their own, and their young son, Erik, is just finding his footing among his fellow emperor penguins when a dire new threat thrusts their future into jeopardy. Just when it begins to look as if all hope is lost, the penguin nation bands together to dance the darkness away. Writer/director George Miller and star Robin Williams both return in this sequel also featuring the voices of Hank Azaria, Brad Pitt, Matt Damon, and Sofia Vergara.

Immortals				
Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday & Tuesday		4:25	7:25	
Wednesday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Thursday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto • Epic • Rated R

Jack and Jill				
Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday & Tuesday		4:30	7:30	
Wednesday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Thursday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes • Comedy • Rated PG

Tower Heist				
Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday & Tuesday		4:15	7:15	
Wednesday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Thursday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45

Ben Stiller, Eddie Murphy • Crime, Comedy • Rated PG 13

Puss in Boots				
Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday & Tuesday		4:05	7:05	
Wednesday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Thursday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35

Anronio Banderas, Salma Hayek • Children's/family • Rated PG

In Time				
Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20	
Monday & Tuesday		4:20	7:20	
Wednesday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Thursday	1:20	4:20	7:20	9:40

Justin Timberlake, Amanda Seyfried • Thriller • Rated PG 13

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Father's 'playful touching' could easily become abuse

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: A number of things in the letter from "Uneasy in Indiana" (Oct. 21) can be red flags for sex abuse. I have worked in child welfare for 35 years. Abusers often start with "playful touching," comment about "cute" body parts, continue after being asked to stop, and make power statements that they can touch the child if they want.



Dear Abby

If the incident was innocent, why didn't he recognize that it made his daughter uneasy and immediately stop when asked? "Uneasy" already fears he may accuse her of being a paranoid former victim. Abusers, when confronted, often accuse the other parent of "misunderstanding" or "being crazy." They may also accuse the child of misunderstanding the touches or being provocative.

That "Uneasy" and her husband don't have sex is also of concern—it can mean her husband finds children, not adult women, sexually desirable.

Even if "Uneasy" isn't sure, she should stop leaving the child alone with him. Take her with her to class, leave her with a friend's parents or a safe relative. Let the husband know the touching and comments stop NOW—no excuses—and if there's anything else of this nature she will report it to the authorities.

The time to protect a child is BEFORE something happens. Afterward is too late. Children often tell only one time. If no action is taken, the child won't tell again!

SEEN IT ALL IN TEXAS

DEAR SEEN IT ALL: My thanks to you and the others who wrote to support my advice to "Uneasy in Indiana." My readers comment:

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm a clinical social worker who works with sex offenders in a prison. I'm distressed that the husband "truly believed it was OK and didn't mean ..." Yes, he DID mean to touch his daughter inappropriately. He has begun to groom her for his own sick pleasure.

The key statement in that letter is the girl asked him to stop and he negated her feelings by telling her she "belonged" to him. HUGE red flag! So many offenders I see are infatuated with preteens. "Uneasy" needs to get him to counseling ASAP and never leave her daughter alone with Dad.

UNEASY THERAPIST IN ILLINOIS

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: That husband is playing with fire. I know. After my wife died I playfully spanked and patted my daughter's cute little butt. Her school counselor found out, called child protective services, who called the police, and I was arrested. I wound up serving 2 1/2 years in prison. I'm now on parole and will be on the federal Sex Offender Registry for the next 20 years. That man needs to rethink his actions and get professional help before it's too late for him or his daughter.

C.R.H. IN KENTUCKY

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Uneasy's" letter made me sick to my stomach, having endured the same treatment from my father. If it's not stopped immediately, it will most likely escalate into incest. The issue is boundaries. Every girl needs them in order to maintain her self-worth, control over her own body and her ability to say "no" without being afraid of offending some guy who wants to treat her like a sex object.

It took years of therapy and work to repair the damage my father caused. This father's problem should be addressed immediately by a professional therapist. "Uneasy" needs to put her foot down and let him know his behavior will not be tolerated. The daughter needs her mother's full support. She has a right to feel safe in her own home.

DISTURBED IN OREGON

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

'Breaking Dawn' rises to \$283.5M global debut

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Twilight Saga" has staked out another huge opening with a \$139.5 million first weekend domestically and a worldwide launch of \$283.5 million. The domestic total gives "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1" the second-best debut weekend for the franchise, after the \$142.8 million launch for 2009's "The Twilight Saga: New Moon." "Breaking Dawn" did more than half of its business, \$72 million, on opening day Friday, while the movie's debut weekend was the fifth-best on record.

Opening in 54 overseas markets, "Breaking Dawn" pulled in \$144 million internationally, according to studio estimates Sunday.

But the Warner Bros. dancing penguin sequel "Happy Feet 2" stumbled in its debut, pulling in just \$22 million over opening weekend. That's barely half what the first film in the animated franchise earned in its 2006 opening.

The comparison is even worse considering the original did not have the sequel's price advantage for 3-D screenings, which cost a few dollars more than 2-D shows.

The previous weekend's No. 1 movie, Relativity Media's action tale "Immortals," fell to third-place with \$12.3 million, raising its domestic haul to \$53 million.

George Clooney had a great start with Fox Searchlight's comic drama "The Descendants," which broke into the top-10 despite playing in just a handful of theaters.

"The Descendants" finished at No. 10 with \$1.2 million in 29 theaters, averaging a whopping \$42,150 a cinema. That compares to an average of \$34,351 in 4,061 theaters for "Breaking Dawn."

In an industry whose main audience is young males, "Twilight" is a rare blockbuster franchise driven by female viewers.



In this image released by Summit Entertainment, Kristen Stewart, foreground, and Robert Pattinson are shown in a scene from "The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn Part 1."

Distributor Summit Entertainment reported that women and girls made up 80 percent of the audience for "Breaking Dawn."

The movie's big start points to even better business for next year's "Breaking Dawn—Part 2," the finale in the five-film series based on Stephenie Meyer's best-selling novels.

"Breaking Dawn" was a windfall for Hollywood in general, whose domestic revenues continue to trail 2010's despite rosy projections last spring of a record box-office year.

Domestic business totaled \$222 million, up 14 percent from the same weekend last year, when "Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows: Part 1" led with \$125 million, according to box-office tracker Hollywood.com.

The penguins of "Happy Feet

2" were left in the cold compared with the big debut for the first film, a critical favorite that won the Academy Award for feature animation.

The sequel, featuring returning voice stars Elijah Wood and Robin Williams, received mixed to bad reviews. Still, Warner Bros. reported it earned high marks from audiences, which could keep it afloat in the coming weeks.

But the competition for family audiences turns intense in the next few days with Martin Scorsese's youthful adventure "Hugo," the musical comedy "The Muppets" and the animated holiday tale "Arthur Christmas" all opening Wednesday for the busy Thanksgiving weekend.

The newcomers, combined with "Breaking Dawn," could lift Hollywood above the Thanksgiving record set in

Estimated ticket sales for Friday through Sunday at U.S. and Canadian theaters, according to Hollywood.com. Where available, latest international numbers are also included. Final domestic figures will be released Monday.

1. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1,"** \$139.5 million (\$144 million international)
2. **"Happy Feet 2,"** \$22 million (\$2.6 million international)
3. **"Immortals,"** \$12.3 million (\$11.9 million international)
4. **"Jack and Jill,"** \$12 million (\$1.6 million international)
5. **"Puss in Boots,"** \$10.7 million (\$2.4 million international)
6. **"Tower Heist,"** \$7 million (\$4.5 million international)
7. **"J. Edgar,"** \$5.9 million
8. **"A Very Harold & Kumar 3D Christmas,"** \$2.9 million
9. **"In Time,"** \$1.7 million (\$4.2 million international)
10. **"The Descendants,"** \$1.2 million

Estimated weekend ticket sales at international theaters (excluding the U.S. and Canada) for films distributed overseas by Hollywood studios, according to Rentrak:

1. **"The Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn—Part 1,"** \$144 million
2. **"The Adventures of Tintin,"** \$21.7 million
3. **"Immortals,"** \$11.9 million
4. **"Real Steel,"** \$6.9 million
5. **"Moneyball,"** \$5.4 million
6. **"Arthur Christmas,"** \$5 million
7. **"Tower Heist,"** \$4.5 million
8. **"In Time,"** \$4.2 million
9. **"The Lion King,"** \$3.6 million
10. **"Paranormal Activity 3,"** \$3.4 million

2009, when "New Moon" paced the industry to a \$273 million domestic haul from Wednesday to Sunday.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Mila Kunis keeps promise to be Marine's date

GREENVILLE, N.C. (AP)—Film star Mila Kunis has made good on her promise to a Marine who had been serving in Afghanistan. Kunis and Marine Sgt. Scott Moore attended the annual Marine Corps Ball on Friday in Greenville, N.C. The annual event marks the founding of the Marines in 1775. Back in July, the data systems technician asked Kunis to be his date for the ball in a YouTube video. He was deployed to Afghanistan at the time. Kunis accepted his invitation soon after the video was posted. The actress' appearance comes just days after "Friends With Benefits" co-star Justin Timberlake attended a Marine Corps Ball with Cpl. Kelsey De Santis in Richmond, Va.

Int'l Emmys to honor 'Idol' producer Nigel Lythgoe

NEW YORK (AP)—"American Idol" executive producer Nigel Lythgoe might have to print some new business cards after he receives a special honor at the 39th Annual International Emmy Awards Ceremony. He says his business card reads "multi-Emmy loser" after being nom-

inated six times for "Idol" for a U.S. Primetime Emmy without a win. On Monday night, he'll be accepting the honorary International Emmy Founders Award in recognition of his work as a reality show innovator and global advocate for dance. Lythgoe, who also produces "So You Think You Can Dance?," will be honored at the awards ceremony in which 40 nominees from 20 countries will be vying for International Emmys in 10 categories.

Bruce Springsteen and E Street Band to tour in '12

NEW YORK (AP)—Bruce Springsteen and the E Street Band are set to go on the road in 2012. Springsteen announced plans to tour the United States and Europe on his official website Sunday. Dates were to be announced later. He also wrote the band is "incredibly excited" about the new year, adding their new music is "almost done" and "still untitled," but with an undetermined release date. This will be the first tour for the E Street Band since saxophonist Clarence Clemons died in June from complications of a stroke. Springsteen's last tour was the "Working on a Dream" tour, which ended in 2009.

Beyonce worried baby secret would be revealed

NEW YORK (AP)—It's tough to keep a pregnancy a secret when you're in the public eye, and for a while, Beyonce thought the jig was up.

The singer said at one point, she was thinking, "everyone knows."

Beyonce said it became particularly difficult to hide her baby bump when she performed for sold-out crowds at New York's Roseland Theater in August.

The singer spoke at a Sunday screening of her new concert DVD Sunday in New York.

Fans can get a behind-the-scenes look at the "Intimate Nights" concerts on her new "Live at Roseland" DVD, out at Walmart this week.

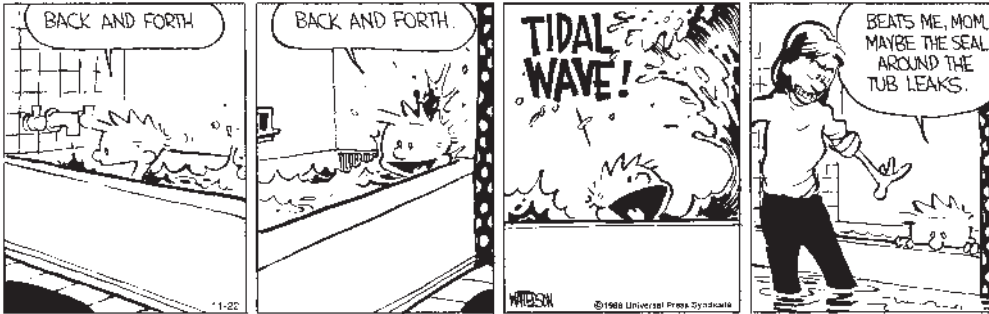
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

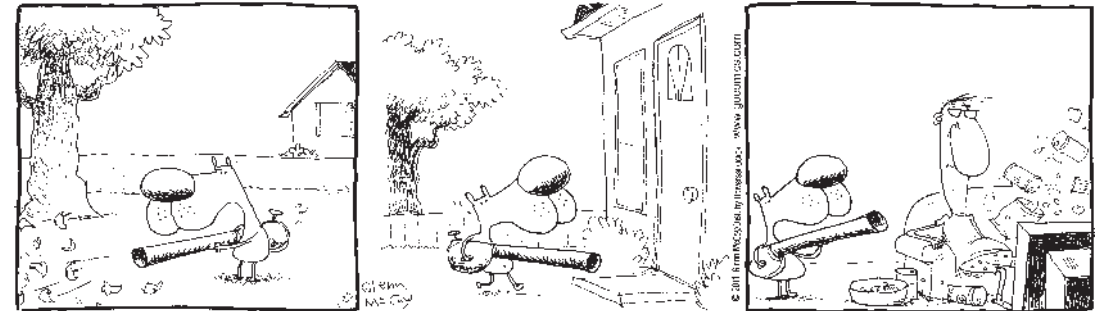
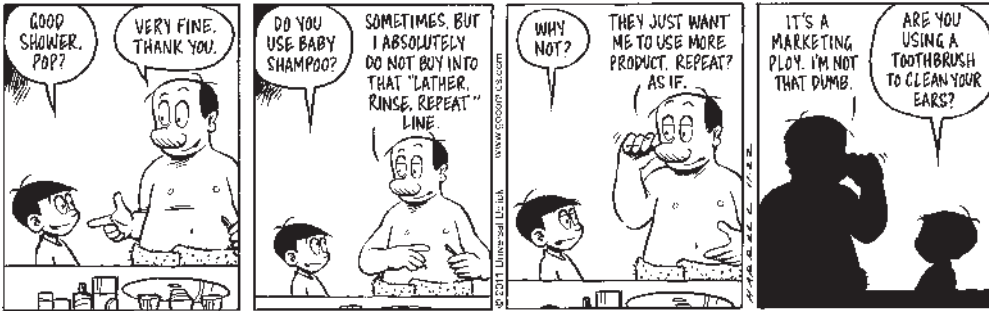


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

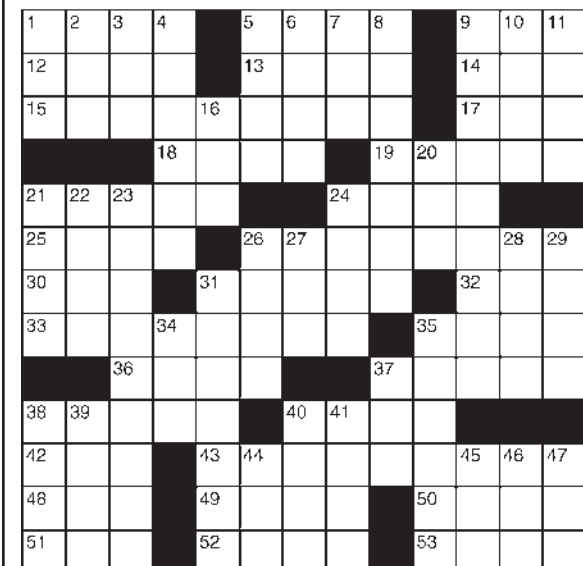
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Perjured oneself
5 Start from scratch
9 Craze
12 Farm fraction
13 Fermi's tidbit
14 Salt Lake athlete
15 Sprout
17 De-pressed
18 Elevator name
19 Uncomfortable, as a mattress
21 Denominations
24 "Frasier" actress
25 Verifiable
26 Light snowfalls
30 Have a bug
31 Pops
32 Hearty brew
33 Bring to mind
35 Pack cargo
- DOWN**
- 36 Levin and Gershwin
37 Verses
38 Huge mistake
40 Hawaiian island
42 Literary collection
43 End
48 Performance
49 Therefore
50 Two-way
51 Witness
52 Beams of sunlight
53 Read cursorily
3 Goof up
4 Remove a stripe, maybe
5 Hindu royal
6 Greek vowels
7 Web address component
8 Brunch entrees
9 De-nounce
10 On a 5th Grader?
11 Moist in the morn
16 Where — at
20 Spoon-bender
21 Celebrity
22 One of HOMES
23 Reach a peak
24 Carson's predecessor
26 Corn castoffs
27 Rhyming tribute
28 Latch (onto)
29 Stitches
31 "Are You — Than a 5th Grader?"
34 Before
35 Noises
37 — Beta Kappa
38 Sheepish remarks?
39 Formerly
40 Group revelry
41 Andy's pal, on old radio
44 Historic time
45 Arctic diving bird
46 Mai — (cocktail)
47 Shade provider

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 11-22



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Scarlett Johansson, 27; Mark Ruffalo, 44; Jamie Lee Curtis, 53; Steve Van Zandt, 61.

Happy Birthday: What you offer others will be worth your while. Your give-and-take attitude, coupled with hard work and choosing partners and peers wisely, will lead to success. Branch out professionally and own what you have to offer. Supply and demand will depend on your own motivation and marketing ability. Strive to be the best. Your numbers are 5, 11, 18, 24, 29, 35, 47.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't sit in the background when you have something to contribute. You will receive interesting feedback and make some new friends. Pressure someone who can make a difference to your future. A partnership will stabilize your situation. ***

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Have some fun. Set out to help an organization you believe in and you will meet someone who can contribute to your goals. Don't let your emotions cause uncertainty regarding a job you've been asked to do. ***

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): A fresh look at an old problem will help you resolve what's been holding you back. You will learn what you need to know in order to put your skills to work in other areas. A partnership will pay off. Love is in the stars. *****

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Someone will hold you back. You have to find a way to make an asset out of a person who is currently a burden to you. Delegate some of

your trivial jobs to free up your time for more important prospects. **

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Your uncertainty will cost you. Get out and mingle with people who have something to offer. You need a change of pastimes, friendships or scenery to stop stagnating. Don't give in to anyone trying to give you more responsibilities. **

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't let someone or something from your past cause problems for you personally. It will be difficult to avoid getting angry at someone's incompetence. Give the benefit of the doubt, or you may end up looking bad. ***

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): A short trip will lead to a better mindset. Your communication skills and ability to mediate will come in handy when dealing with friends or colleagues. Your knowledge will help you gain respect and a higher status. ***

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Consider how you can make extra cash. Something you used to do can be resurrected and turned into a profitable pastime. A change in location or the people you hang out with will lead to greater opportunity. Overtime will pay off. ***

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): It's what you do for others that will count. Open your heart and let your ideas find solutions to problems that others face. Not only will you gain the confidence of others, you'll also ignite interest in what you have to offer. ****

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Stick to what you know and trust. Someone will try to get you to take on extra burdens. An unexpected delay will lead to a chance meeting with someone who motivates you to aspire to greater heights. **

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You will shine if you do your best to help others. There is money to be made if you use your imagination to market something you have to offer. A service that helps seniors, children or pets will open a door to financial relief. *****

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Stick to work. Don't try to impress someone with something you don't know enough about. You are better off doing the best job possible and saying very little. A personal problem is likely to lead to confusion if you don't focus. ***

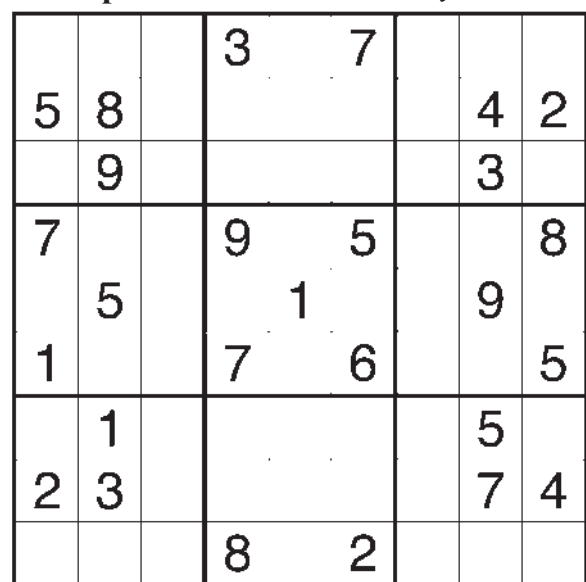
Birthday Baby: You are a diplomatic peacemaker and an advocate for justice.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

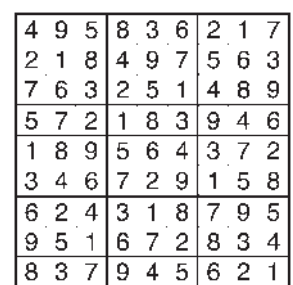
By Dave Green



Difficulty Level ★★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

CHILDREN'S AID SOCIETY

Solution: 10 letters



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Abused, Active, Adopt, Advocacy, Agency, Assistance, Brace, Centers, Clinics, Court, Events, Family, Foster, Friend, Funds, Give, Global, Good, Guard, Harbor, Haven, Health, Help, Heritage, Historic, Homes, Kids, Nice, Orphan, Parents, Philanthropist, Place, Poverty, Private, Refuge, Safe, Sanctity, Show, Social, Summer, Therapy, Train, Voice
Yesterday's Answer: Georgetown
Today: T U C S I G T Z X D M O R S D S W K U G A B V P Q R L N O J Y Z A S C H E I J K L M P N Q R S T U V W X Y Z
Unused letters: S P M B N U S F A N I O I A I Y A L E O T G T E T U S N N C I O F E S L S C C R E N T C S G I V E H E G A T I R E H E

CLASSIFIED ADS



STYROFOAM
4'X8' SHEETS
TEL.: 287-3700

Commercial Space For Rent
4,500 sq. ft. located in San Jose
(formerly Wells Fargo)
Call Mr. Jung at 287-1000

Job Vacancy Announcement
Gene's Barber Shop

4 Barbers
1 Commercial Cleaner

5 years experience. Trade test required.
Call 233-6300 for interview.

Hoffschneider Land Surveying

Administrative Assistant
1 opening @\$5.05/hr.

Minimum of 5 yrs. experience in surveying business preferred.

Interested persons may submit resume to our office
Located on the ground floor JETENORIO Bldg. Gualo Rai
Or fax to 235-8914 email Joehof17@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
CHEAP CUT BBQ CONCESSION STAND

Looking for

(2) Concession Stand Food Handler/Server.

- > Must have a High School Diploma/GED equivalent.
- > Stamina to work on your feet for 12hr shift.
- > Be able to lift and carry 30lbs.
- > Assist in setting up and cleaning concession stand.
- > 5-10 years experience in food service preferred.

Send resumes to Fax: (907) 523-9733
or PO Box 506462, Saipan, MP 96950

Job Vacancy Announcement
CHEAP CUT BBQ RESTAURANT

Has positions for

(3) Waiters or Waitresses.

- > Must have a High School Diploma/GED equivalent.
- > Stamina to work on your feet for 6hr shift.
- > Possibly split shifts.
- > Able to speak Pilipino, Chinese, Korean preferred.
- > Be able to lift and carry 30lbs.
- > 5-10 years experience in food service preferred.

Send resumes to Fax: (907) 523-9733
or PO Box 506462, Saipan, MP 96950

FOR SALE



EMPLOYMENT

1 Housekeeping Cleaner: \$5.05/hr. At least 3 years' experience as housekeeping cleaner in hotel environment required.

09 Toyota Corolla, Mil. 32,500. Excellent condition. Price \$11,200. Pls Call 287-7676.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

EMPLOYMENT

CAD Operator. 5 yrs exp in Public Utilities (water & wastewater) design. ACAD v2012. Send resume to PO Box 5339

Farmer – 1 year experience \$ 5.05/hr. Send resume to P.O. Box 501555 C.K. Saipan MP 96950

(3) Child Caregiver \$5.05/hr. minimum two years experience in handling kids and CPR Certified. Fax resume to 233-6828. Tender Love Childcare Center

1 Scuba Diving Instructor: \$5.05-7.00/hr. College degree and at least 3 years' experience as scuba diving instructor required. Fluency in Korean required.

2 Waiter/Waitress: \$5.05/hr. High school diploma and at least 3 years' experience as waiter/waitress in hotel environment required.

2 Front Office Clerk: \$5.05/hr. At least 2 years' experience as front office clerk in hotel environment required.

1 Cook Helper: \$5.05/hr. At least 1 year experience as cook helper required.

1 General Maintenance Worker: \$5.05/hr. At least 2 years' experience as general maintenance worker required.

Email resume to o2scuba@hanmisaipan.com.

1 Commercial cleaner: \$5.05/hr. Minimum 2 years' experience as commercial cleaner. Email resume to sk@hanmisaipan.com.

2 Sales Representative: \$5.05/hr. At least 3 years' experience in scuba diving tour or marine sports required. Fluency in Korean and Chinese required. Must be willing to live and work in Tinian. Email resume to blueocean@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Maintenance Repairer, Sal. \$5.05/hr. Min 4yrs exp. Email resume to jikangahn@gmail.com JJ BROTHER CORP #235-4485.

(1) Equipment Technician- 3 years experience. \$5.05/hr. Email resume to splcspn@yahoo.com. South Pacific Lumber Co.

1-Gen. Maintenance. \$5.05/hr, H. S. graduate w/ 3yrs work related exp. willing to work day or night. Vimar Offshore, Inc. dba Manis Inn. Call 234-9511.

2 Online Merchant experience w/ resume required. \$5.05/hr. Les Oshiro 233-6970.

(1) Tour Guide: \$5.05/hr, tips and commission. At least 3 years of tour guiding experience in Saipan is required. Korean speaking fluency is required. (1) Store Manager: \$1,000/mo. At least 1 year of experience as a clothing store manager is required. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to treasure@hanmisaipan.com.

(2) Tour Guide: \$5.05/hr, tips and commission. Korean speaking and writing fluency is required. Email resume to knl@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Tour Guide: \$5.05/hr, tips and commission. A two-year college degree or higher is required. At least four years of tour guiding experience in Saipan is required. Korean speaking fluency is required. Email resume to hit@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.05-7.00/hr. At least 5 years' cooking experience in Korean cuisine required. (1) Cook (Korean cuisine): \$5.05/hr. (1) Waiter/Waitress: \$5.05/hr. Must be able to work night shifts. Email resume to hankyung@hanmisaipan.com.

(1) Chef / Restaurant Manager (Korean and Western cuisine): \$5.05-7.00/hr. Must be a licensed cook of both Korean and Western cuisine. At least 5 years' professional cooking experience in Korean and Western cuisine required. High-school diploma or equivalent required. Email resume to star@hanmisaipan.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement

(1) Commercial Cleaner

- Minimum 5 years work experience, must be honest and trustworthy.
- Must be flexible in schedule and can work holidays & weekends.

Email resume only at annesong71@gmail.com

Maria B. Calilong
P.O. Box 7349 SVRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone No.: 286-5492

PRO SE

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**

In Re The Matter Of) **FCD GU CIVIL**
The Petition To) **ACTION**
Appoint General) **NO. 11-0475**
Guardianship For:)
Markole Jenya) **NOTICE OF**
M. Taneza) **HEARING**
Minor Child,)
)
by)
)
)
Maria B. Calilong)
Petitioner)

Notice is hereby given that the above-entitled matter is set for a hearing on December 1, 2011, at 10:00 a.m. in Courtroom 217A, before Presiding Judge Perry B. Inos.

Dated this 14th day of October, 2011

Bernadita A. Sablan
Clerk of Court

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

HOFFSCHNEIDER LAND SURVEYING is a licensed Professional Surveying Company located in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands is currently looking for qualified applicant to fill the following positions:

1 – Surveyor
Successful candidate will have an extensive knowledge of the fundamentals of land surveying using conventional methods and equipments and will have experience in making exact measurements and determining property boundaries. Provide data relevant to the shape, contour, gravitation, location, elevation, or dimension of land or land features on or near the earth's surface for engineering, mapmaking, mining, land elevation, construction, and other purposes.

- Minimum Qualifications:
- Bachelors Degree in Surveying or Associate Degree with 5 years experience.
 - 5 to 10 years of experience preferred.
 - GPS Post Processing experience.
 - Strong written and verbal communication skills.

1 – Surveyor Technician/Helper
Successful candidate will have experience in performing various types of boundary, right-of-way, topographic, control and construction staking surveys.

- Minimum Qualifications:
- High School Graduate
 - 3+ years of work experience
 - Dependable and Strong Desire to Work Outdoors under Normal to Extreme Conditions.

For consideration, please submit your resume to our office via hand delivered, fax or E-Mail. No Phone Calls or Walk-Ins will be accepted. HOFFSCHNEIDER LAND SURVEYING CO. is located on the ground floor of J.E. Tenorio Bldg in Gualo Rai, Garapan. Fax number is (670) 235-8914. E-Mail address is joehof17@yahoo.com.

Job Vacancy Announcement
Credence Inc. dba Credence Wholesale

1 Sales Person
1 Accountant
1 Store Manger

5 years experience, mail resume to PO Box 504941, Saipan MP 96950. Police Clearance required on hiring. Salary negotiable.

Job Vacancy Announcement
Enhance Pacific Corporation dba Perfectly Set & VMC Pawnshop

1 Goldsmith/Jewelry Repairer
1 Jewelry Appraiser

5 years experience. Knowledge in precious and semi precious metals, gems and stones a must. Police clearance required. Call 287-5046 for interview appointment with resume. Salary negotiable.

WHATZIT Solution: Memory like an elephant

Hans W. Mickelson needs:

3 Artists -10 years minimum experience

- specialized in different styles of tattooing (oriental, tribal, polynesian, japanese, realistic, portraiture)
- attended local and international tattoo conventions
- knowledge in international standard of tattooing
- received awards and recognitions in art competitions
- knowledge in japanese language
- can work flexible time and days (holidays and sundays)
- must be excellent in freehand drawings
- can create designs that client needs
- can paint in any medium
- must have own vehicle

Please send resume & sample of work to: medtsaipan@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement

(3) Bakers and (2) Cooks – Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years. Must be willing to work from 3:00 in the morning. Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

(1) Commercial Cleaner, (1) Sales Support – Must have previous experience of at least 2-3 years and willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.

Interested applicants please send your resume to:
LFP Corp. dba Marg's Kitchen
P.O. Box 5527, CHRB.
Saipan, MP 96950
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
OCEANSIDE BAR N GRILL

Supervisor (1)

- Bachelor degree from a 4 yr college or university.
- Great customer service skills.
- Excellent written and oral communication skills.
- Strong technology aptitude required, proficient in: Excel Spreadsheets, Peachtree software, Microsoft Outlook
- Work all shifts and flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 4-5 years customer service related working experience required
- Salary \$5.50 to \$6.00 /Hourly

Cook (2)

- High school graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable of all menus and recipes in his section including ingredients, methods of cooking and preparation of dishes and assures that the correct standard of sanitation, hygiene and cleanliness is always maintained.
- Salary \$5.05/Hourly

Bartender (1)

- High School graduate
- Work flexible schedule including weekends and holidays
- At least 1-2 years working experience
- Knowledgeable in mixing drinks and serving alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks and beverages to customers
- Salary \$5.05/Hourly

Interested applicants can email their resumes at Osidebarngill@yahoo.com.

TROPICAL LEISURE SPORTS, INC.
Job Vacancy Announcement

Cook (1) • Salary: \$5.05/hr
Must read, write and speak fluent Japanese. High school graduate or equivalent and at least 2 years experience in preparation of Japanese dish/cuisine.

Life Guard (3) • Salary: \$5.05/hr
Flexible time schedule. Must monitor activities in swimming areas to prevent accidents. Caution swimmers regarding unsafe areas. Rescue swimmers in danger or drowning. Must be able to administer CPR and First Aid, and perform other related duties as assigned. Must be a high school graduate with at least 2 years experience as life guard and possess unexpired life guard, CPR & First Aid Certificates (American Red Cross).

Submit resume & police clearance to; Marine Sports Center counter located at the beach side of Hafadai Beach Hotel

A warehousing and distribution company is looking for
A FULL-TIME ACCOUNTANT

Candidate must posses the following qualifications:

- A 4-year degree (Diploma) in College in Business Administration-Accounting.
- A minimum of 4-YEAR employment working in all field Accounting. If you have worked in a wholesaling organization, it will be a plus!
- Must be proficient in QuickBooks — This is our company accounting software.
- Must be able to work with PC and Apple Computer. Communicate verbally / written effectively. Must be proficient in Microsoft Word, Excel, and E-mail.
- Candidate must be discipline in time management and highly organized to successfully fill this position.
- Successful candidate will be responsible for company financials for Saipan and Guam operation. Will report directly to General Manager.

E-mail your Resume to: pss-admin@teleguam.net or contact 670-234-0167.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB 12-DPS/RBS-019

SUBMISSION/OPENNING DATE: DECEMBER 20, 2011
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

“PURCHASE OF ONE (1) 3-PASSENGER PERSONAL WATER CRAFT FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY-BOATING SAFETY SECTION”

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE PICKED-UP AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE DR., SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT

/S/ RAMON C. MAFNAS
COMMISSIONER, DEPT. OF PUBLIC SAFETY

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Salty Saipan Corporation is seeking for an
ELECTRICIAN

Duties – Repairs, maintains, & installs wiring, motors, generators, lighting, and other electrical systems.

Knowledge, Skills and Abilities:

- Knowledge of the tools, equipment, and materials common to the electrical trade
- Knowledge of applicable electrical codes, standards, and regulations.
- Knowledge of electrical application for high and low voltage electric system
- Skill in the installation, repair and maintenance of all types of electrical system equipment and components
- Skills in both verbal and written communication

Minimum qualifications:

- Five (5) years experience.
- Completion of approved technical training program in electrical repair and maintenance and electrical experience;
- Or any equivalent combination of experience and/or education from which comparable knowledge, skills and abilities have been achieved.
- Able to work a rotating shift, which includes evenings, weekends and holidays.

Email resume only at annesong71@gmail.com

Customers First
TRIPLE J

TRIPLE J MARSHALL ISLANDS
is looking for an individual for the position of

ACCOUNTANT

- A bachelor's degree in accounting or its equivalent.
- Minimum of 3 yrs. experience in the preparation of financial statements.
- Strong computer proficiency in Microsoft Excel and Word (knowledge in Peachtree or similar accounting software is a plus).
- Strong communication skills.
- Must be willing to work flexible hours under minimal supervision.

Drop off your resume at the
Triple J Corporate Office, 3rd Floor, TSL Building
Beach Road, Garapan

May submit resume online at
corpoffice@triplejsaipan.com

We accept applications up to December 3, 2011

NO PHONE CALL PLEASE

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

MEMOS

www.facebook.com/dingbatgames

Wanted - (1) Technician with knowledge and skill in the operation of a screw type oil press and the processing of oils from nuts. H.S. diploma and 2 years experience preferred. Salary: \$5.05/hr. Call Mt. Tapochau Farms at 285-5730 for more info.

GREGORIO S. CALVO
Is in need of: FARMER
Minimum of 3 years experience
You can apply at: pangle1950@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
2 Talent Coordinators \$5.05/hr
5 years experience. Can provide musical entertainment at Hotels, Restaurants and other private functions.
Call JBM Enterprises at 235-1859

Wanted US Workers only
1 Administrative Assistant
Must be fluent in Mandarin. Computer literate. Knowledge in website designing preferred.
Send resume to KDC at PO Box 10003 PMB 1175

Li'l Hands School of Music
Job Vacancy Announcement
Closing Date: November 24, 2011
(1) Music Teacher – Voice
Minimum of 5 yrs experience in professional singing industry. Must have experience in voice coaching and performance arts.
Email resume to rcsmusic@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(2) Cooks
• Must have previous experience of at least 2-4 years.
• Must be willing to work from 3:00 in the morning.
• Must be willing to work flexible hours including weekends and holidays.
Please submit your resume at Tun Goru Snack Bar NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

SASAMO USA CORPORATION
Job Vacancy Announcement
1 Manager. 2 years of personnel management experience, proficient in English and Korean (reading, writing, speaking), flexible hours for night, weekend and holidays. Must provide own car. Send resume to sylviancmi@gmail.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
WVC Inc. dba WVC Pawnshop & WVC Wholesale
1 Pawnshop Manager
1 Jewelry Appraiser
1 Sales Person
5 years experience. Knowledge in precious stones and metals a must. Police clearance required. Call 2336047 for interview appointment. Bring Bio Data and employment certification from previous employers.

Job Vacancy Announcement
Part time General Maintenance (1)
\$5.05/hr
With 7 to 10 years work experience
Michael Villagomez
Email mkvillagomez@yahoo.com

Job Vacancy Announcement
(1) Accountant
• Must have 2-5 years in professional accounting experience.
• Minimum AA in Accounting Degree preferred.
• Must have strong math and analytical skills.
• Must be computer literate.
• Must have knowledge in Accounting Software and Microsoft Office.
• Excellent reading & writing skills.
• Flexible schedule.
• Salary: \$5.05 - \$6.50/hr.
For inquires, call 234-6267 or email ptui@pacificains.com
Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc.

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Make it your daily habit.

Pastimes

Garfield®

Alomar, Blyleven elected to Hall of Fame

Saipan Tribune Sports

Minor wins doubles in Aus

Saipan Tribune

CNMI's FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper

Call 235-NEWS

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION : SALES REPRESENTATIVE (5)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- High School diploma required
- Minimum of 2 years experience in retail sales of office and school products
- Good working knowledge of MS Word, Excel and DDMS Software
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Must be flexible to work specific schedules, weekends, holidays and overtime as necessary
- Ability to calculate figures & accounts such as discounts, mark-up, percentages, etc.

POSITION : OFFICE MACHINE SERVICER (2)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- Associate Degree in Electronics / Mechanical or Broad Specialized Training Equivalent to 2 Years Related to Electronics or Mechanical or Electro-Mechanical
- 2-3 years experience with repairing and maintaining different ranges of office equipment / machines
- PC Application proficiency and or Networking fundamentals
- Knowledge of digital copiers, MFPs, fax machines, time recorders, cash registers, shredders, printers, typewriters and binding machines
- Must have good verbal and written communication skills
- Must have a valid CNMI driver's license

POSITION : OFFICE FURNITURE ASSEMBLER (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- 1-2 years of assembly, installation and delivery experience in a retail environment
- Proficient with basic furniture assembly & installation hand tools (power drill, power screw drivers, power saw, ratchets, wrenches etc.)
- Must be able to read, understand and follow product assembly and installation instructions of each manufacturer's product line
- Ability to perform work assignments with little or no supervision
- Must be flexible to work nights, weekends, holidays, overtime and off-island as necessary
- Must be able to work in various positions, including, but not limited to, stooping, standing, bending over, sitting, kneeling and squatting for extended periods of time
- Job will regularly require lifting of 25-80 lbs and moving of large objects
- Must regularly operate warehouse equipment such as sit-down & stand-up fork lift, pallet jack, hand truck / dolly type equipment
- Must regularly drive a delivery truck
- Ability to be D.O.T. Certified and physically qualified to drive by passing a D.O.T. physical
- Must have a valid forklift operator certificate
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's license

POSITION : WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- High School diploma required
- 2-3 years of successful management experience in distribution / warehouse operation of 5 or more employees
- Must have a good math, reading and writing skills
- Must have experience with bar-coded inventory management system
- Must be computer literate
- Must have good working knowledge of DDMS Software
- Must be able to lift 75 lbs on a regular and consistent basis
- Prior experience operating warehouse equipment such as forklift, pallet jack, hand truck / dolly type equipment
- Must regularly drive a delivery truck
- Ability to be D.O.T. Certified and physically qualified to drive by passing a D.O.T. physical
- Must have a valid forklift operator certificate
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's license

POSITION : WAREHOUSE WORKER (2)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- High School diploma required / equivalent work related experience
- At least 2 years of warehouse experience, shipping / receiving, order picking and packing duties
- Must have experience with bar-coded inventory management system
- Must be computer literate and able to perform basic function and look up inventory
- Must have good working knowledge of DDMS software
- Must have prior experience operating warehouse equipment such as forklift, pallet jack, hand truck / dolly type equipment
- Must be able to lift and move 25-50 lbs frequently and up to 80 lbs. occasionally
- Must be able to stand for duration of the job
- Must have a valid forklift operator certificate
- Must have a valid CNMI Driver's license

POSITION : BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- At least 3 years experience in maintenance and construction related trades
- Capability to repair all types of problems in masonry construction
- Highly skilled in waterproofing and protection techniques used to control deterioration of structures
- Waterproof and damp proof walls and other building surfaces to help keep buildings dry
- Must have the ability to perform a variety of roof repairs
- Must be able to work in various positions, including, but not limited to, stooping, standing, bending over, sitting, kneeling and squatting for extended periods of time
- Must be able to lift, pull and push materials and equipment to complete assigned job tasks
- Must be able to lift 50 lbs of weight frequently throughout assigned workday
- Must be able to work in precarious or high locations and also be able to climb and descend ladders or scaffolding

POSITION : RETAIL IN-STORE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATOR (1)
QUALIFICATIONS :

- High School Diploma Required
- Must have at least 2 years preferably current of product demonstrating and sales experience in a retail environment
- Must have thorough knowledge of office & school products
- Strong communication and interpersonal skills
- Good working knowledge of MS word, excel and DDMS Software
- Must be able to stand up to six hours

Applications can be obtained at and submitted to National Office Supply on Beach Road, South Garapan. A copy of valid police and court clearance must be attached to the application. Incomplete applications will not be accepted. Background checks will be required prior to employment. Pre-employment and random drug testing may be required. Salaries will be commensurate with qualification & experience. All positions close on November 22, 2011.

Ravens beat Bengals to take over 1st place



BALTIMORE (AP)—Joe Flacco threw for 270 yards and two touchdowns as the Baltimore Ravens beat the Cincinnati Bengals 31-24 on Sunday to move into first place in the AFC North.

Flacco connected with rookie Torrey Smith on a 38-yard touchdown to give Baltimore (7-3) a 31-14 lead early in the fourth quarter. Smith finished with six catches for 165 yards, while Ray Rice ran for 104 yards and two scores.

The Bengals (6-4) got to the Baltimore 7 in the final minute but could not score.

The victory moved the Ravens into a share of first place with Pittsburgh, but Baltimore is 2-0 against the Steelers and holds the tiebreaker advantage.

Bengals rookie quarterback Andy Dalton threw for 373 yards but was intercepted three times.

49ers 23, Cardinals 7

In San Francisco, Alex Smith threw for 267 yards and two touchdowns and San Francisco forced five turnovers on a soggy day at Candlestick Park.

Smith connected with Kyle Williams and Vernon Davis on the first two drives of the third quarter to help the 49ers pull away for their eighth straight victory. San Francisco (9-1) can clinch the NFC West with a win at Baltimore on Thursday and a loss by Seattle against Washington next weekend.

Patrick Willis, Donte Whitner and Dashon Goldson all intercepted passes by John Skelton. The quarterback for the Cardinals (3-7) lost for the first time in three starts this season in place of the injured Kevin Kolb.

Bears 31, Chargers 20

In Chicago, Jay Cutler threw for 286 yards and two touchdowns as the Bears won their fifth straight game.

Chicago (7-3) continued its remarkable turnaround and handed the Chargers their fifth straight loss, their longest slide since an 0-5 start in 2003. But it wasn't easy.

Philip Rivers threw for 280 yards. For most of the game, he looked more like a Pro Bowl quarterback than the guy who had been turning it over at an alarming rate. But two late interceptions helped preserve the win for Chicago.

Falcons 23, Titans 17

In Atlanta, Roddy White had seven receptions for a season-high 147 yards and Jonathan Babineaux led an Atlanta defense that held off Tennessee.

The Falcons (6-4) bounced back from an overtime loss to New Orleans, but it wasn't easy. Jake Locker took over for injured Matt Hasselbeck and threw a pair of touchdown passes to Nate Washington to make a game of it for the Titans (5-5).

Atlanta jumped ahead on Matt Ryan's 17-yard TD pass to Tony Gonzalez and was up 20-3 in the third quarter after Michael Turner scored on a 4-yard run.

Eagles 17, Giants 10

In Rutherford, Vince Young threw a go-ahead 8-yard touchdown pass to Riley Cooper with 2:45 to play as the undermanned Philadelphia Eagles finally got things right in the fourth quarter.

In what was a must-win game for Andy Reid's struggling team, the Eagles, who had lost five games in the fourth quarter earlier this season, marched 80 yards in 18 plays over 8:51. They converted six third-down plays, with DeSean Jackson setting up the first-and-goal with a 10-



Baltimore Ravens wide receiver Anquan Boldin (81) dives into the end zone for a touchdown over Cincinnati Bengals free safety Reggie Nelson in the first half of an NFL football game in Baltimore, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011.

Hester not surprised NFL teams kick to him

LAKE FOREST, Illinois (AP)—There's at least one person in the NFL who doesn't think kicking to Devin Hester is a bad idea—him.

The Chicago Bears' superstar return specialist says he's not surprised when teams kick to him even though he continues to rewrite the record book.

He said the odds still don't favor him, and changing a game plan for one player is "too much" for a special teams unit no matter how dominant he is.

The league's all-time leader in combined kick-return touchdowns (17), including an NFL-record 12 on punt returns, he was particularly dangerous last week as the Bears pounded the Detroit Lions.

He ran back three punts for 122 yards in just one half before leaving the game and ran one back 82 yards to the end zone despite strep throat, swollen tonsils, high fever and a sprained ankle.

"When you're sick, you're just in a relaxing mode," Hester said. "You're just really living life up, living it up. I wasn't stressed out or anything. I was just out there being ready."

Despite his ailments, he delivered the sort of performance that again raised the question: Why kick to him?

San Diego Chargers coach Norv

Turner made it clear they will proceed with caution when they visit the Bears on Sunday.

Some teams will simply kick it out of bounds or try to pin him along the sideline, as deep as they can. They'll hang the ball to give the coverage team enough time to close in on him, maybe forcing a fair catch, knowing that they might be sacrificing field position a bit.

Either way, they know all bets are off when the ball is in his hands, that he's capable of reaching the end zone any time he touches it.

So the question is whether to take the risk or trust their coverage team. The score might dictate that, and so could the conditions.

"We have an outstanding punter (Mike Scifres) and we've come a long ways; we've improved a great deal in our coverage teams," Turner said. "But it's not a deal where you want to put our guys out there and say, 'Go cover him.' We have to have a plan and we do have a plan. That plan has to be flexible because we're aware that we're in a stadium where the elements will be a big part of it. A lot of it as far as how you kick the ball and what your approach is has to do with where you're punting from."

"Certainly, I'm not anxious to give him a nice softball down the middle,

let him catch it between the hashes and let's see how we can cover."

The Chargers are allowing 26.5 yards per punt return and rank 27th in that category, so on the surface, this doesn't look like a great matchup. But they were able to take Hester out of the game the last time they played the Bears in 2007, limiting him to one kickoff return in a 14-3 victory over Chicago.

This season, he is averaging 20.1 yards on punt returns and has two touchdowns. On kickoff returns, Hester's averaging 24.0 yards and had a 98-yard touchdown against Minnesota last month.

Throw in a missed field goal that he ran back 108 yards against the New York Giants in 2006 and he has 18 return touchdowns in his career—one shy of his friend Deion Sanders' record. If he gets it, that'll just be more ammunition for those who believe he's on the path to the league's Hall of Fame.

"I think there's a first time for everything," Hester said. "We all know that there's never been a Hall of Fame kick-off or punt returner. My situation, I'm just trying to draw attention to it. I'm trying to do things that have never been done before. The only way to do that is to keep returning kickoffs and punts. Hopefully my stats and statistics will draw attention to the Hall of Fame."

yard catch to the 10.

On third-and-goal, Young found Cooper, who hadn't caught a pass all season, alone in the end zone for the lead that gave the Eagles (4-6) hope in what has been a dismal season.

Cowboys 27, Redskins 24 OT

In Landover, Dan Bailey kicked a 39-yard field goal 9:21 into overtime to give Dallas its third straight win.

The Cowboys rallied after allowing a late fourth-quarter touchdown and improved to 6-4, keeping the pressure on the first-place New York Giants in the NFC East.

The Redskins lost their sixth straight, their longest skid since their 0-7 start in 1998. They sent the game to overtime on Rex Grossman's 4-yard fade pass to

Donte Stallworth with 14 seconds remaining in regulation.

Washington's Graham Gano missed a 52-yard field goal in overtime.

Bailey's winning kick was set up by Tony Romo's 26-yard pass to Dez Bryant.

Browns 14, Jaguars 10

In Cleveland, Jacksonville rookie quarterback Blaine Gabbert's pass into the end zone on the game's final play was incomplete, allowing the Browns to escape.

Gabbert rifled a 3-yard pass high over the middle that went off wide receiver Mike Thomas' outstretched hands, and the Browns (4-6) celebrated a win they nearly gave away.

Colt McCoy shook off an apparent

injury and threw a 3-yard TD pass to Josh Cribbs in the fourth to give Cleveland a 14-10 lead. A missed field goal by Browns kicker Phil Dawson with 2:49 left gave the Jaguars (3-7) a final chance and Gabbert nearly pulled off the comeback.

Packers 35, Buccaneers 26

In Green Bay, Aaron Rodgers threw three touchdown passes as Green Bay survived a scare to remain unbeaten.

With the Packers leading by two points and trying to fend off a rally by Tampa Bay in the fourth quarter, Rodgers found Jordy Nelson for a clinching 40-yard touchdown with 2:55 left in the game—Nelson's second TD catch of the day.

The Packers ran their record to 10-0,

leaving them as the NFL's lone undefeated team going into a Thanksgiving Day matchup at Detroit.

Josh Freeman threw for 342 yards with two touchdowns and two interceptions for the Buccaneers (4-6), who have lost four straight but didn't back down against one of the NFL's elite teams.

Raiders 27, Vikings 21

In Minneapolis, Carson Palmer threw for 164 yards and a touchdown as Oakland capitalized on several mistakes by Minnesota.

Michael Bush rushed for 109 yards and a touchdown for the Raiders (6-4).

Raiders receiver Darrius Heyward-Bey was carted off the field with a neck injury in the fourth quarter. Coach Hue Jackson said Heyward-Bey had total movement in his limbs, and hoped the player would join the team on the trip home and undergo further tests in Oakland.

Heyward-Bey was injured when linebacker E.J. Henderson's knee inadvertently hit him in the back of the head while he was being tackled.

Adrian Peterson left the game in the second quarter with a sprained left ankle and the Vikings (2-8) weren't able to complete a fourth-quarter rally.

Dolphins 35, Bills 8

In Miami, the Dolphins set up two touchdowns with interceptions and Matt Moore threw for three scores.

After losing their first seven games, the Dolphins (3-7) have three consecutive victories for the first time since 2008, winning by a combined score of 86-20. Buffalo (5-5) has been outscored 106-26 while losing three in a row.

To make matters worse for the injury-riddled Bills, they lost NFL rushing leader Fred Jackson in the third quarter when he hurt his leg. Receiver Donald Jones (left ankle) and cornerback Terrence McGee (left leg) were carted off the field in the second period.

For the third game in a row, the Dolphins held the opposition without a touchdown.

Lions 49, Panthers 35

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford's fifth touchdown pass of the game, a 7-yarder to Brandon Pettigrew with 2:32 left, completed another big rally.

Detroit (7-3) became the first NFL team since at least 1950 to win three games in a season after trailing by at least 17 points, according to STATS, LLC. Carolina (2-8) led 24-7 in the second quarter.

The Panthers tied it at 35 with 4:59 left on Cam Newton's 6-yard run and 2-point conversion pass to Steve Smith.

Stafford started the game-winning drive with a 30-yard pass to Calvin Johnson and capped it by converting a third down with his TD pass to Pettigrew in the end zone. Newton, who threw one TD pass and ran for two others, was intercepted four times.

Seahawks 24, Rams 7

In St. Louis, Sidney Rice caught a touchdown pass and drew a pass interference that led to a field goal for Seattle.

Chris Clemons had three of Seattle's five sacks on Sam Bradford, and he also forced the Rams quarterback to fumble twice, both leading to touchdowns.

Marshawn Lynch scored for the fourth straight week, although he missed on a third straight 100-yard game, finishing with 88 yards. The Rams (2-8) totaled 185 yards.

Tiger gets winning point, Couples gets validation



MELBOURNE, Australia (AP)—The

winning point for Tiger Woods. A perfect record for Jim Furyk.

And validation for U.S. captain Fred Couples.

The Americans won the Presidents Cup as a team, 19-15, avenging their worst loss ever in any cup competition 13 years ago on a Royal Melbourne course that lived up to its reputation as among the greatest tests in golf.

Yet even as they gathered around the gold trophy at the closing ceremony Sunday afternoon, all of them dressed in red shirts and blue blazers, it was hard to ignore the singular achievements.

Couples was criticized in some corners for picking Woods, who had fallen out of the top 50 for the first time in 15 years and had gone two years without winning. Even the International team captain, Greg Norman, said he would have taken PGA champion Keegan Bradley.

So perhaps it was only fitting that it was Woods who blasted out of a deep bunker on the 15th hole to within 2 feet to put away Aaron Baddeley and give the Americans the point they needed to win the Presidents Cup.

Couples was among the first to greet him, shadow boxing with the guy he called "the best player in the world forever."

"I'm thankful that he picked me," Woods said. "Greg is probably not happy about it after I closed out the cup today. But it's great to be a part of this team. I'm thankful that Freddie believed in me to be a part of this team. This is just a great bunch of guys."

Woods was solid for five matches, even though he was rewarded with only two points. On another tough day of strong winds and super slick greens, he made six birdies—the most in any of the 12 singles matches—and earned the clinching point for the second straight time.

"A lot of people have asked why I picked him and how he was going to play," Couples said. "Certainly I couldn't answer how he was going to play, but this week I think he showed to himself that his swing is back and he's healthy. And that's more impor-



The U.S. team captain Fred Couples, fourth left in back row, and his team celebrate with the Presidents Cup trophy after winning the Presidents Cup golf tournament at Royal Melbourne Golf Course in Melbourne, Australia, Sunday, Nov. 20, 2011.

tant to me. Obviously, we want to win the cup. But it's more important for me to have people realize that he can play the game."

If there was any concern, it might have been Furyk.

Furyk had his worst full season since he was a rookie, failing to win a tournament or come even close, only securing a spot on the team in the final hour. He teamed with Phil Mickelson three times, Nick Watney once and was at his best by himself against Ernie Els to become only the fourth player to go 5-0 in the Presidents Cup.

The others were Woods in 2009, Shigeki Maruyama in 1998 and Mark O'Meara in 1996.

"Knowing Phil for as many years as I have ... I'm guessing he asked to play with me, because I struggled so much this year and played poorly—the worst of anyone sitting up here right now," Furyk said. "I assume that he asked to play with me because

he felt like he could get a lot out of me this week, that maybe he could pump some confidence into me. And he did that."

The Americans took a 13-9 lead into the final day—only the U.S. team at the Ryder Cup in 1999 at Brookline had come back from a deficit that large to win—and Couples decided to put his veterans at the back of the lineup.

There was early cause for concern.

K.T. Kim, Masters champion Charl Schwartzel and Ryo Ishikawa built big leads early as the raucous Australian crowd came to life. Geoff Ogilvy knocked in a 60-foot putt on the 12th hole in the fourth match as the scoreboard filled up with blue numbers.

"I started to think, 'Wow, this is going to be some day,'" Couples said.

But veterans Woods, Furyk, David Toms and Steve Stricker didn't let him down. Stricker, competing for the first time in nearly two months because of

a neck injury, closed out Y.E. Yang for the final point.

The Americans not only won the cup for the fourth straight time, but it was the third consecutive win by at least four points. They now lead the series 7-1-1 and earned a small measure of revenge for the last time Down Under.

Ogilvy and Schwartzel led the way for the International team, each with a 3-1-1 record. In one of the more classier moments, Haas decided not to concede a 15-foot putt to Ogilvy

on the last hole, even though he had three putts to win the match. Haas wanted to give him the chance to make it before his home crowd in Melbourne. Ogilvy missed.

It was a tough way for Norman to go out in his second stint as International captain—both losses to Couples, this one on a Royal Melbourne course in his native Australia where the Shark is revered.

He had five Australians on his team, and used his captain's picks on two players who grew up on the sand belt courses of Melbourne. Baddeley went 1-3-1, while Robert Allenby was 0-4, the first captain's pick since John Huston in 1998 to not win a point.

Norman attributed yet another loss to the foursomes matches, where the Americans had an 8-3 advantage.

"The last three years have gone so similar," Ogilvy said. "We go into singles needing a miracle."

As for Woods?

"He stepped up to the plate. He putted extremely well," Norman said. "Any player hates to see another great player struggle, because we all know what it's like to go through the ins and outs of the game. At the end of the day, you want to see the player who has dominated the game come back."

Norman didn't change his opinion of Couples' selection, though.

"I probably still would have gone for Keegan Bradley because he's a major champion," Norman said.

Norman could only watch as Woods hit his bunker shot that secured the match, and the final point, before congratulating Couples. It's getting to be quite a familiar image in an event that began in 1994 and has had a distinctive Stars & Stripes look to it.

"It would be fun to win one of these things," Ogilvy said. "It's the best time of the year until you realize you're not going to win."

Baseball deal includes HGH testing, \$480k minimum



NEW YORK (AP)—Baseball's new labor contract will include blood testing for human growth hormone, a rise in the minimum salary to \$480,000 and luxury taxes on both amateur draft signings and international free agents coming to the major leagues.

Lawyers for players and owners are working to complete a memorandum of understanding on changes to sport's collective bargaining agreement and hope to sign the deal by Tuesday. A person familiar with the negotiations disclosed some of the agreed-upon provisions to The Associated Press on Saturday, speaking on condition of anonymity because the deal had not yet been announced.

The blood testing provision was first reported by The New York Times.

Blood testing for human growth hormone will start when players report to spring training in February, putting

MLB ahead of the NFL. The NFL wanted to start HGH testing this season, following that sport's new labor contract, but the NFL Players Association has not agreed, causing some congressmen to pressure the union.

There also will be a slight increase in the total of players eligible for salary arbitration after the 2012 season, when there also will be a new method to determine compensation for clubs losing top major league free agents. There also will be modifications to the luxury tax on high-payroll teams, but the threshold will remain at \$178 million next year.

The changes are the most numerous since the 1997 agreement that came nearly two years after a 7 1/2-month strike that wiped out the 1994 World Series. The five-year deal, replacing one set to expire Dec. 11, ensures 21 consecutive years of labor peace for MLB at a time when the NBA season is being threatened by a lockout that

already has wiped out a quarter of the regular season.

As part of the deal, baseball's minimum salary will go from \$414,000 this year to \$480,000 in 2012 and \$500,000 later in the deal—matching what the average salary was in 1989.

Owners gained one of their chief objectives: a restraint on the bonuses paid to amateur free agents, both those entering professional baseball from high schools and colleges and those coming to MLB organizations from abroad.

A tax of 75 percent to 100 percent will be imposed on the amount a team exceeds a threshold, and teams exceeding the threshold by higher amounts could lose first- and second-round draft picks.

For international free agents, such as players from the Dominican Republic and Venezuela, there will be a separate threshold and tax with penalties, and there will be a study committee that could put a new system in place later during the agreement.

Rubio gets first taste of NBA

DALY CITY, Calif. (AP)—Spanish sensation Ricky Rubio still managed to get his first taste of NBA-caliber competition during the lockout.

Rubio played Sunday night in the Drew Gooden Make-A-Wish Charity Game at the Cow Palace.

The Minnesota Timberwolves point guard showed off passing skills, a nice long-range shot and even some humor during the game that raised \$10,000 for Gooden's favorite cause.

Rubio was on the losing side but it really didn't matter. Both teams played as if they weren't keeping score. For the record, the White team, which featured California product Leon Powe and former Warriors player Al Harrington, won 117-92.

"It's fun to play with NBA players," Rubio said. "It should make it easier when we come back to play."

Rubio, who signed with the Timberwolves in June, still has the option to return to Spain, where he became the youngest player on a roster of the Spanish ACB League at age 14 in 2005.

"I'm going to stay here for a while to see if we'll play," Rubio said. "I can always go back to Spain. So I know I will be playing basketball somewhere this season."

Rubio drilled a 3-pointer on his first attempt and executed a perfectly timed alley-oop pass with DeMar DeRozan for a backdoor slam.

DeRozan also had the best dunk of the night with a monster slam. Joakim Noah, unofficially, produced the most slams and James Harden recorded the most ingenious slam.

The teams played four, 10-minute quarters with a 15-minute halftime that was entertaining as the game itself.

At one point in the second half, Rubio gave the ball to a fan, asking him to inbound it for him. Players subbed into the game during play, ala hockey's shift change.

DeRozan and Gooden attempted full-length of the court shots during halftime and the game was stopped twice for an on-court shooting contest.

Originally scheduled to be played at the University of San Francisco, the game was switched to the Cow Palace at the last moment. Cow Palace Rentals and Operations Officer Diana Colvin said a concert, originally scheduled for Saturday night, was canceled, making it easier to transform the venerable arena into a basketball configuration.



SBC routs TAGA in Traders Insurance tourney

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Saipan Badminton Club convincingly won its first assignment in the 5th Annual Traders Insurance Badminton Team Tournament after dominating TAGA, 25-8.

SBC swept its first three games in Week 1 of the competition and then topped six of the last eight games over the weekend at the TSL Sports Complex for the impressive victory.

Oh Imbog and Pastor Kok Hiong Pang (men's doubles B), Joel Ortega and Oh An Yeol (men's doubles C), and Kim Boranah and Lee Yun Yee (women's doubles C) gave SBC its first three triumphs in Week 1 and were joined on the winners circle by the pairs of Hannah Choi and Toshiko Obata, Heo In Souk and Sunja Kim, Gary Bandoja and Kim, Oh Imbog

and Obata, and Boranah and Ortega. Hannah and Obata swept TAGA's Loyda Ito and Chris Obaldo in the women's doubles A, 21-16, 21-15, while Souk and Sunja Kim also needed only to games to down Shirley Kim and Gigi Zapanta in the women's doubles B, 21-19, 21-17.

Sunja got her second easy win when she teamed up with Bandoja in beating Luis Camacho and Loyda Ito in the mixed doubles A, 21-13, 21-14. In the mixed doubles B, Imbog and Obata cruised past Jerry Tan and Merlie Tolentino, 21-14, 21-16, and SBC completed a sweep in the mixed doubles after Ortega and Boranah topped Elna Curate and Mickey, 21-13, 21-10.

In the singles division, SBC and TAGA split the two matches with Choi beating Angie Ito, 21-11, 21-12 in the women's division and Andrew Galvez winning the men's division against Dick Guintu, 21-17, 21-17. TAGA's second victory came in the men's dou-



bles A with Galvez joining forces with Rodwealth Espana in edging Guintu and Bandoja, 21-12, 22-20.

With its 25 games won in Week 1 and 20 more in Week 2, SBC now sits in second place in the five-club field, just four games behind frontrunner Golden Racquet (49). TAGA is in third place despite a big loss to SBC, as the former has earned 40 games won, while the Berks Blazers (33) and Shirley's Badminton Club (31) are in fourth and fifth places, respectively. Results of other pairings in Week 2 will be published later this week.

The five competing clubs will compete in a round-robin elimination with only the Top 4 squads advancing to the crossover semifinals.

Sunja Kim hits a volley during her and Heo In Souk's game against Shirley Kim and Gigi Zapanta in the women's doubles B division of the Traders Insurance tournament last weekend at the TSL Sports Complex.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

LAI

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The Shintanis were on the upper half of the draw and marched into the semis, following a victory over Paul Jang and July Kim. Then in the semis, Kazu and Aki stunned top seed Vickie Izuka and Norman Tsang in three sets, 5-7, 6-2, 6-3.

In the mixed doubles 4.0, the father and daughter tandem of Boyet and

Theecel Minor needed only two sets to down Carl Dela Cruz and Mikayla Lopez in the finals, 6-4, 6-3. The Minors were the top-ranked players in their group and made it to the finals after slipping past Phiel Kiensin and Nina Engelhardt, 6-2, 4-6, 6-3. Before bowing to the Minors, Kiensin and Engelhardt won their first match against Sergei Stukov and Merle Hudkins, 6-3-6-0. In the other semis pairing, Dela Cruz and Lopez also had a tough win over Jake Lee and Jodel Fernandez,

6-2, 4-6, 6-2.

The mixed doubles 4.0 title game was played late Sunday afternoon along with the three remaining singles championship matches.

In the women's 4.0 singles finale, Engelhardt outlasted junior player Carol Lee in three sets. Engelhardt won the first set, 6-4, but failed to wrap up the game when Lee took the second set, 6-4. In the deciding third set, Engelhardt pulled off a 10-4 triumph.

Lee made it to the finals after win-

ning via walkover against top seed Tammy Ackerman, who was injured. Engelhardt outclassed Emily Jones, 7-5, 6-2, and Aki Shintani, 6-4, 6-2 to advance to the finals.

In the women's 40-and-above singles finals, Lydia Tan walked away with the championship after winning the first set, 6-1, and Cleofe Santos decided not to continue the match due to an injury.

The men's 40-and-above singles title match went the distance with Raj Rai edging Sam Lai, 2-6, 6-1, 6-2.

GET REAL

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were welcomed at the airport by, among others, their four children Jemuel,

Michael, Mary Divine Grace, and Queen Elizabeth, and friends, including former Manila Mayor Lito Atienza and son, Ali.

Asked about the hotly debated fight in Nevada, Pacquiao admitted he was not totally happy with his performance.

"Ang paniwala ko, bago natapos 'yung 12 rounds ay lamang ako at panalo ako (I believed that before the bout was over, I was ahead and winning)," he said.

But he admitted "'yung inisip ko na ibigay ko 'yung magandang laban ay di ko nagawa (The thought that I gave away a good fight didn't enter my mind)."

"So medyo di masyado akong

kumbinsido sa performance ko dahil sa 'yung ini-expect na ibigay ko sa mga tao ay di nangyari ang ganun (I was not convinced in my performance and I wasn't able to deliver what the people expected of me)," said Pacquiao.

He explained, "eh, talagang ganun. Naintindihan natin na di sa lahat ng panahon ay pwede tayong manalo ng one-sided fight.. Tsaka, di pwedeng lahat ng kalaban bubugbugin . May kamay din 'yan. Dumating lang 'yun pagkakataon na naging close 'yun fight (That's boxing. There are instances where you don't win through a one-sided fight. You can't always beat your opponent in a lopsided way. They also have fists. It so happened that my fight was a close fight)."

On published reports that American boxer Floyd Mayweather has dethroned him as the boxing pound-for-pound king, the General Santos City

native claimed he has yet to see them.

"Di ko alam kung saan lumabas 'yan...Siguro sa ibang tao na di dug-ong-Pinoy ang nag-iisip ng ganyan (I don't know where that came from. Probably from people who are not Filipinos)," he said.

Pacquiao has reportedly been demoted to No. 2 in the pound-for-pound rankings of the U.S. publication *Sports Illustrated*, as well as ESPN and Yahoo! Sports.

Mayweather moved to the No. 1 spot after a 21-month layoff and three successive wins over Shane Mosley, Victor Ortiz and Marquez.

Ring Magazine, called the "Bible of Boxing," on the other hand, continued to recognize Pacquiao as the best after Sunday's controversial match.

On his plans, Pacquiao disclosed he was going back to work at the House of Representatives.

"Balik tayo sa trabahao...Wala pa tay-

ong susunod na laban (Back to work... no plans for next fight yet)," he noted.

Asked about the current woes of his former ally, ex-President Macapagal-Arroyo, Pacquiao declined comment.

"Mahirap magbigay ng komento sa ganyang mga issue na di natin alam ang mga sitwasyon. Siguro, pag-aralan nating mabuti bago tayo magbigay ng pahayag (It's hard to comment on an issue I have not no knowledge of. I'd have to study it first before I mae a comment)," he added.

Last week, President Aquino defended Pacquiao's victory over Marquez as he also asked Filipinos not to take anything away from the ring icon who rose from adversity to become a world champion.

"Let's remember where Manny came from, how he shaped himself, how he became a champion and repeatedly became a champion in eight categories," said the President.

TENORIO

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good ride next month," said Tenorio, who led the race from start to finish and timed in at 2:08:12, about 12 minutes ahead of men's road bike division runner-up Ariel Garcia (2:20:02).

Completing the Top 3 of the men's road bike 50-km race was Aldrin Sta. Ana, who crossed the finish line in San Antonio at the 2:34:45 mark.

The longer race of the day also started in San Antonio and bikers headed to the Airport Road, Chalan Talafofo, and Kingfisher and down to Capital Hill going to the Radar Station before returning to San Antonio at the parking lot of the Seventh Day Adventist School through Beach Road.

Four others joined the men's 50-km road bike event.

In the men's 46-and-above division, Willy Barbo and Cesar Fortalez had a down-to-the-wire finish with the for-

mer clocking in at 2:36:22 to beat the latter's 2:37:23. Philip Ganang rounded out the Top 3 with his 2:53:36.

In the 45-and-under race, Andy Nutting won convincingly after completing the race in 2:43:22. About nine minutes behind Nutting was Danny Garcia, who settled for second after submitting 2:51:03. Ben Babauta saved third place after crossing the finish line in 3:06:22.

Still in the road bike category, Mieko Carey finished fourth overall and was the first female to complete the race

after recording 2:28:12. Heather Kennedy notched second place with her 3:08:09.

In the separate MTB race, Nap Dizon and Joann Salazar took the top spot in the podium with times of 2:20:02 and 3:21:31, respectively.

Joining Dizon in the Top 3 of the 10-field men's open MTB category were Charlie Sendin (2:34:34) and Bob Ferrer (2:36:22), while Susan Marchitti (3:22:39) and Juanita Fajardo (4:05:22) rounded out the

each. They made four markers apiece in the opening canto and six other Hyatt players also contributed in the team's 27-25 lead. Pagarao kept Grillin' afloat after the first period with his 11 points.

In the second canto, Nate Mateo drilled nine of his 14 markers, upping Hyatt's lead to 45-40 at halftime. Then in the third, Hyatt converted three triples to keep its distance with Grillin' before the latter launched a big fourth-

GRILLIN'

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A GPPC win coupled with a Grillin's loss will move the former to the next round and leave the latter in a stalemate with Shirley's for the eighth and last playoff berth. A Shirley's victory and Grillin' defeat will tie the latter with GPPC. In case of a two-way tie,

Shirley's caging organizer Boy Ling-caso said the league will implement a win-over-the-other rule to decide the winner of the last playoff seat.

Grillin' remained in contention for a playoff ticket after a hot shooting in the fourth quarter where it outscored Hyatt, 38-20. Before its fourth-quarter explosion, Grillin' fell behind at the end of each of the first three quarters.

Hyatt started the fourth with a 66-

61 lead and quickly lost it when Lerio Pagarao, Leo Galarse, and James Kintz teamed up in Grillin's blazing run. Galarse scored 13 of his 18 points in the fourth period, while Pagarao and Kintz chipped in 10 apiece. Pagarao led all scorers with 36 points, while Kintz played his best offensive game so far this season, tallying 24.

Christian Devero and Bernardo Aquino top-scored for Hyatt with four points

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East

	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	6	3	0	.667	259	200
N.Y. Jets	5	5	0	.500	228	217
Buffalo	5	5	0	.500	237	253
Miami	3	7	0	.300	193	186

South

Houston	7	3	0	.700	273	166
Tennessee	5	5	0	.500	203	195
Jacksonville	3	7	0	.300	125	180
Indianapolis	0	10	0	.000	131	300

North

Baltimore	7	3	0	.700	256	176
Pittsburgh	7	3	0	.700	220	179
Cincinnati	6	4	0	.600	236	195
Cleveland	4	6	0	.400	145	193

West

Oakland	6	4	0	.600	235	254
Denver	5	5	0	.500	205	247
Kansas City	4	5	0	.444	141	218
San Diego	4	6	0	.400	236	259

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East

Dallas	6	4	0	.600	250	206
N.Y. Giants	6	4	0	.600	228	228
Philadelphia	4	6	0	.400	237	213
Washington	3	7	0	.300	160	205

South

New Orleans	7	3	0	.700	313	228
Atlanta	6	4	0	.600	235	213
Tampa Bay	4	6	0	.400	182	268
Carolina	2	8	0	.200	225	286

North

Green Bay	10	0	0	1.000	355	212
Detroit	7	3	0	.700	301	219
Chicago	7	3	0	.700	268	207
Minnesota	2	8	0	.200	200	271

West

San Francisco	9	1	0	.900	256	145
Seattle	4	6	0	.400	168	209
Arizona	3	7	0	.300	190	236
St. Louis	2	8	0	.200	120	247

Yesterday's Games

Green Bay 35, Tampa Bay 26
Oakland 27, Minnesota 21
Detroit 49, Carolina 35
Dallas 27, Washington 24, OT
Cleveland 14, Jacksonville 10
Baltimore 31, Cincinnati 24
Miami 35, Buffalo 8
San Francisco 23, Arizona 7
Seattle 24, St. Louis 7
Chicago 31, San Diego 20
Atlanta 23, Tennessee 17
Philadelphia 17, N.Y. Giants 10

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

SHIRLEY'S STANDINGS

Mobil	7	1
DFS	6	2
Fiesta	6	2
PIC	6	2
PSS	5	3
Hyatt	3	6
GPPC	2	6
Grillin'	2	6
Shirley's	2	6
Wushin	2	7

women's open MTB finishers.

In the men's 46-and-above division, Gary Bandoja was way ahead of his closest pursuer, finishing the race in 2:35:26. Ariel Lansangan timed in at 2:52:56 for a distant second, while Noel Ignacio came in at third at 2:54:11.

The men's 45-and-below event was a close race with Ronald Lanuza tallying 2:44:12 to edge the 2:47:12 of Ricky Melchor. Youth biker Erico Castro completed the Top 3 with his 2:52:22.

quarter rally and steal the game.

Grillin' 99 – Pagarao 36, Kintz 24, Galarse 18, Ritual 12, Hernandez 5, G. Lose 2, J. Lose 2.

Hyatt 86 – Devero 17, Aquino 17, Mateo 14, Castro 9, Arreza 6, Durant 6, Umali 5, Alipio 5, Tumaquip 4, Palacios 3.

Scoring by quarters: 25-27, 40-45, 61-66, 99-86.

2011 MISO Boys Volleyball League

PHOTOS AND TEXT By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND



Two Marianas High School QT's players go up for a block against Kagman High School in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinals.



Kagman High School's Joshua Jones, left, powers over a spike in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball championship against Saipan International School.



Kagman High School's Joshua Jones, left, airmails a spike in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinal against Marianas High School QT's.



Marianas High School-QT's Jason Limes gets ready to slam over a spike in Thursday's MISO boy's volleyball semifinal against Kagman High School in the MHS in the Gym.



Kagman High School's Mike Taitano, right, blocks a shot in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinals against Marianas High School QT's.

Saipan International School's Taek Han Yoon, right, tries to block a spike by Kagman High School's Mike Taitano in Thursday's MISO boy's volleyball championship held in the Marianas High School Gym.



Kagman High School's Kenneth Lizama serves the ball in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinal against Marianas High School QT's.



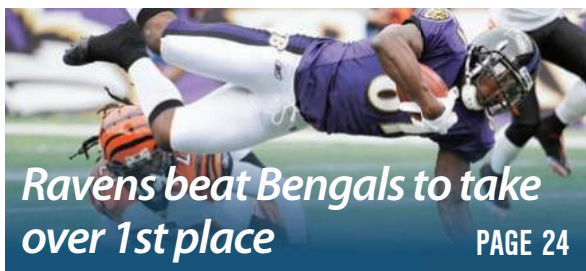
Kagman High School's Justin Kumagai digs up a serve in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinal against Marianas High School QT's.



The MISO boys volleyball champion Kagman High School Ayuyus, right, shake hands with the runner-up Geckos of Saipan International School after the conclusion of Thursday's post-season at the Marianas High School Gymnasium.



Kagman High School's Anthony Foster serves the ball in Thursday's MISO boys volleyball semifinal match against Marianas High School QT's at the MHS Gymnasium.



Ravens beat Bengals to take over 1st place

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Tiger gets winning point, Couples gets validation

PAGE 25

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 2011



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Lewie Tenorio smiles as he nears the finish line of the 50-kilometer event in the SDA Thanksgiving Road & MTB Race in San Antonio last Sunday.

Tenorio tops SDA 60K bike race

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Lewie Tenorio is all set for next month's Hell of Marianas after conquering the 60-kilometer course in the SDA Thanksgiving Road & MTB Race last Sunday.

"It was a good warm-up for the Hell of Marianas. I had a crash and flat-free race. It was a nice cruise and hopefully I will have the same See TENORIO on Page 26

Lai, Tan triumph in mixed doubles

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan's Lydia Tan and Guam's David Lai lived up to expectations after ruling the mixed doubles 40-and-above division of the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

David Lai goes for a forehand return while teammate Lydia Tan looks on during their mixed doubles 40-and-above title game against Sam Lai and Migu Goodman in the 3rd Annual Tan Holdings Tennis Classic last Sunday at the AMP tennis courts.

The top-seeded duo took the championship after sweeping the Guam pair of Migu Goodman and Sam Lai in the finals last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts, 6-2, 6-4. David Lai did a great job playing at the baseline and going for tricky returns that often seemed passing the line, but still went in, catching the latter off guard. Tan on the other hand, connected on several aces and a couple of drop shots to complement her teammate's game.

The winning pair made it to the finals after also nailing a straight sets victory over Jorge Olanda and Lyn Leung in the semis last Saturday, 6-0, 6-2.

Sam Lai and Goodman prevailed in the other semis pairing, beating George Lai and Sally Lee, also last Saturday, 6-1, 6-2.

Two more mixed doubles championship games were played last Sunday.

Over at the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan court, Ryan Cho and Nageo Chieko clinched the 3.0 title after sweeping Kazu and Aki Shintani, 6-2, 6-2. Cho and Chieko were seeded second in the event and drew a bye in the first round of the lower half bracket before defeating Michael Ren and Emily Jones in the semis last Saturday, 6-3, 6-4. Jones and Ren advanced to the semis after surviving May Ling Colombo and Kentaro Imaya, 4-6, 6-2, 10-8.



See LAI on Page 26

Get real, be Filipino, Pacquiao tells local critics

By JERRY ESPLANADA
PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER



MANILA, Philippines — "MAGPAKATOTO ka...maging Filipino ka (Get real...be a Filipino)."

This was boxing idol Manny Pacquiao's message to his Filipino critics, especially those who rooted for Mexican counterpuncher Juan Manuel Marquez during their controversial bout in Las Vegas.

At the same time, the Sarangani lawmaker thanked his countrymen who supported him in the hotly debated contest.

"Salamat sa sambayanang Filipino sa pagsuporta. Sa awa ng Panginoon, nanalo tayo at doon sa mga ibang tao na naniniwala na di tama yung desisyon eh, magpakatotoo ka...maging Filipino ka (I thank the Filipino people for their support. With God's help, I won. But to those who think the judges' decision was wrong, I'd say get real...be a Filipino)," said Pacquiao, who arrived at 8:30 a.m. Monday aboard a Philippine Airlines flight from California (with a brief stopover in Guam).

The Filipino boxer and his wife Ma. Geraldine, also known as "Jinkee," See GET REAL on Page 26



Referee Tony Weeks holds up Manny Pacquiao, of the Philippines arm after his victory over Mexico's Juan Manuel Marquez after their WBO welterweight title fight Saturday, Nov. 12, 2011, in Las Vegas.

Grillin', Shirley's boost playoff bids

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Grillin' and Shirley's kept their playoff hopes alive after notching separate wins in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Shirley's took its second win in eight games without lifting a finger against Wushin, which was forced to forfeit the important match after having only three players available at the curtain-raiser. Wushin, which missed players who thought they were scheduled to play in the second game, finished the regular season with a 2-7 record for 10th place and is likely to get the boot in the 10-team field, as only the Top 8 teams will advance to the playoffs.

Grillin' shares Shirley's 2-6 record and is in a three-way deadlock for seventh to ninth place with GPPC, following a 99-86 victory over Hyatt Regency Saipan.

The three tied teams have one game left in their schedule and these matches are crucial in their playoff chances. Shirley's will face GPPC in the first game on Thursday, while Grillin' will collide against front-runner Mobil in the second match. If Shirley's and GPPC win, they will march into the playoffs, joining Mobil (7-1), DFS Galleria (6-2), Fiesta (6-2), Pacific Islands Club/NVM (6-2), PSS/McGraw-Hill (5-3), and Hyatt (3-6).

See GRILLIN' on Page 26

Lerio Pagarao, seen here going for a breakaway layup in their previous game in the Shirley's caging, exploded for 36 points in Grillin's 99-86 win over Hyatt Regency Saipan last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO